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ANDROMEDA STORIES

ANDROMEDA STORIES

VOLUME I

KEIKO TAKEMIYA

STORY BY RYU MITSUSE

|| VERTICAL.

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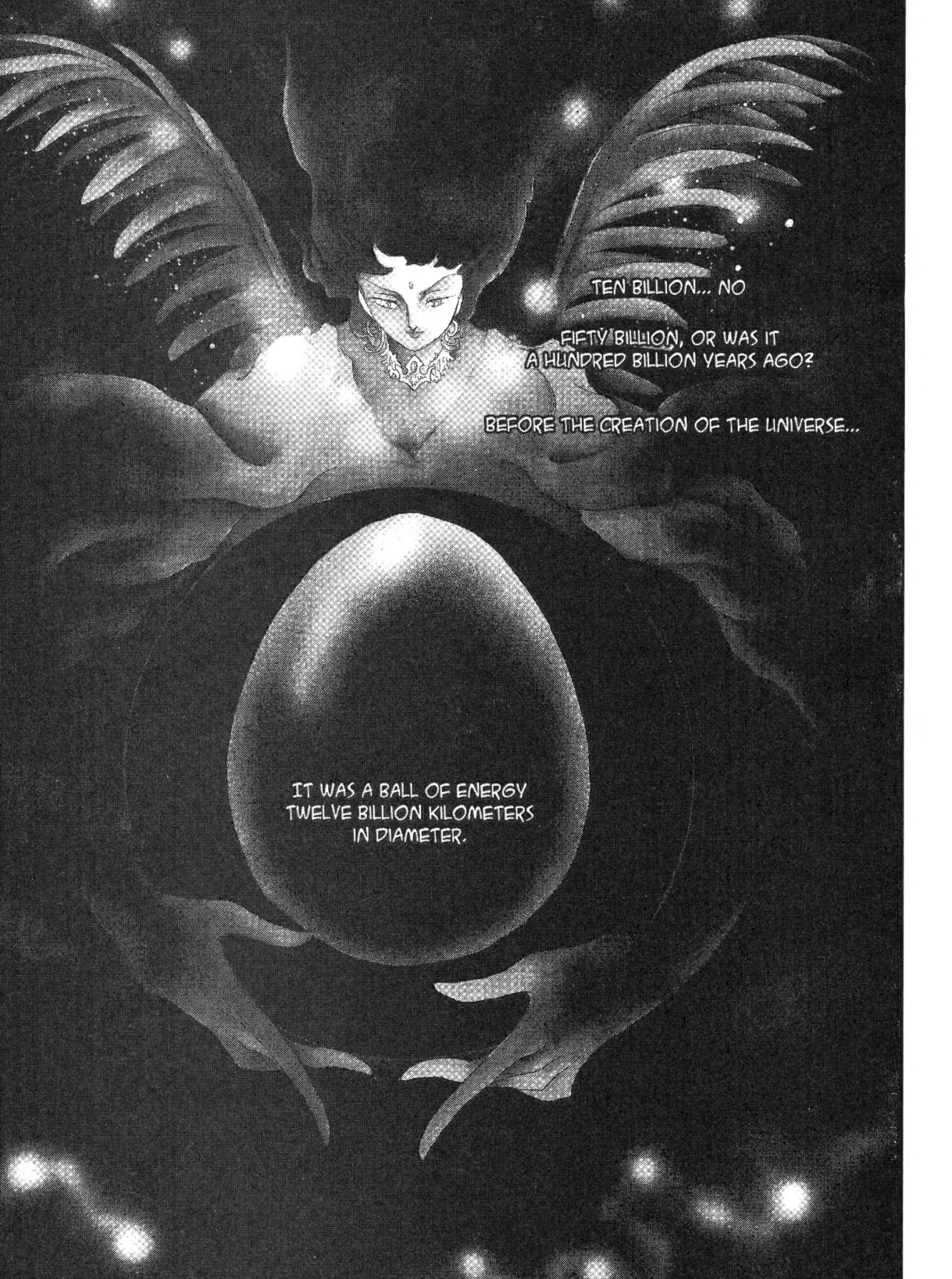
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ANDROMEDA STORIES



TEN BILLION... NO

FIFTY BILLION, OR WAS IT
A HUNDRED BILLION YEARS AGO?

BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE...

IT WAS A BALL OF ENERGY
TWELVE BILLION KILOMETERS
IN DIAMETER.

IN THE TOTAL BLACKNESS OF A UNIVERSE
DEVOID OF LIGHT, HEAT AND SOUND

FLOATED A DARK SPHEROID
ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

THERE TRULY WAS NOTHING THERE.

WITHOUT LIGHT THERE WAS NO TIME.

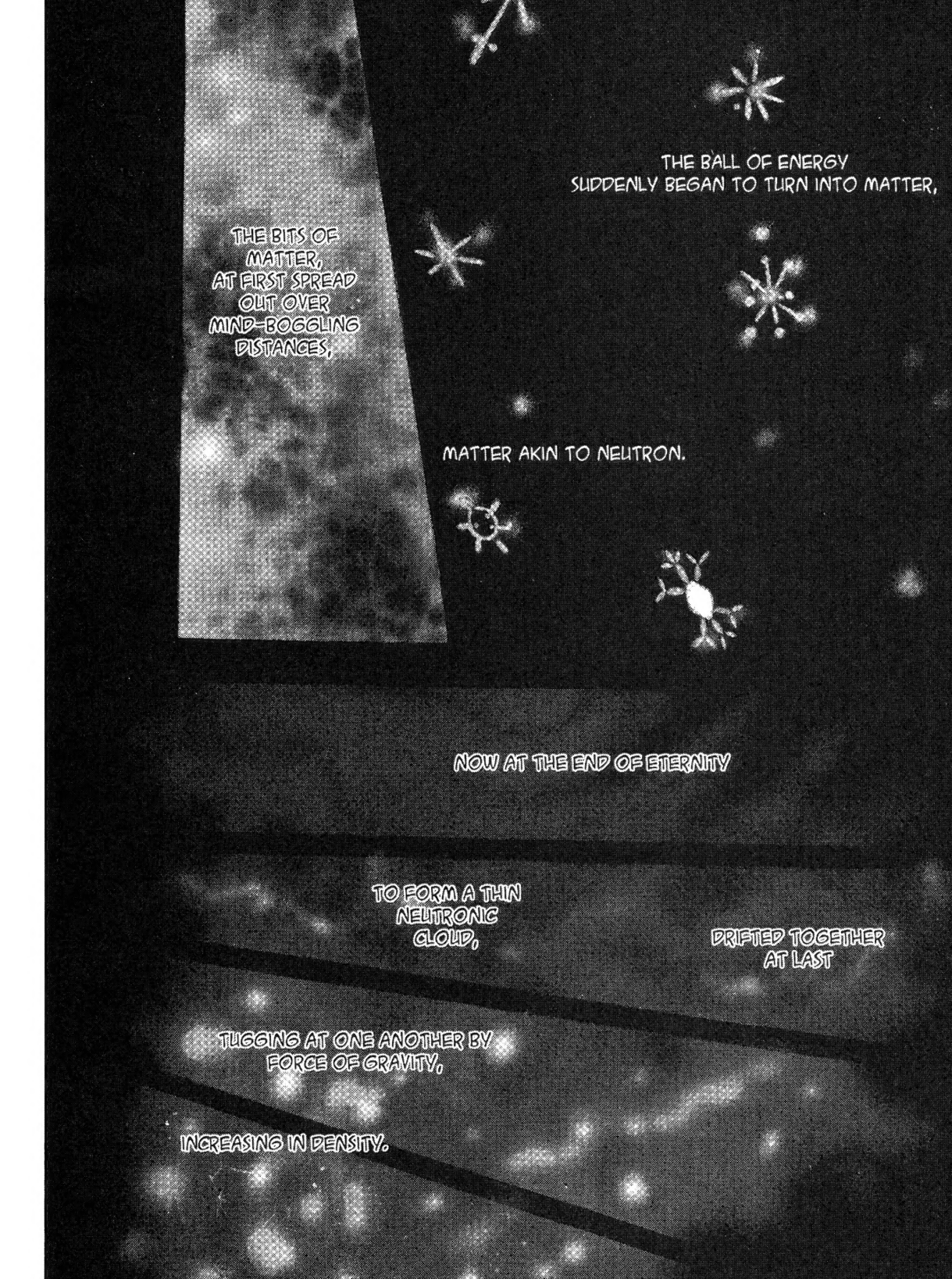
...THE PRIMORDIAL UNIVERSE...

YET

TIME FLOWED WHERE THERE WAS NO TIME;
AN ETERNITY PASSED WHERE THERE WAS NO HOUR.

AND THEN—ONCE UPON THAT TIME





THE BALL OF ENERGY
SUDDENLY BEGAN TO TURN INTO MATTER,

THE BITS OF
MATTER,
AT FIRST SPREAD
OUT OVER
MIND-BOGGLING
DISTANCES,

MATTER AKIN TO NEUTRON.

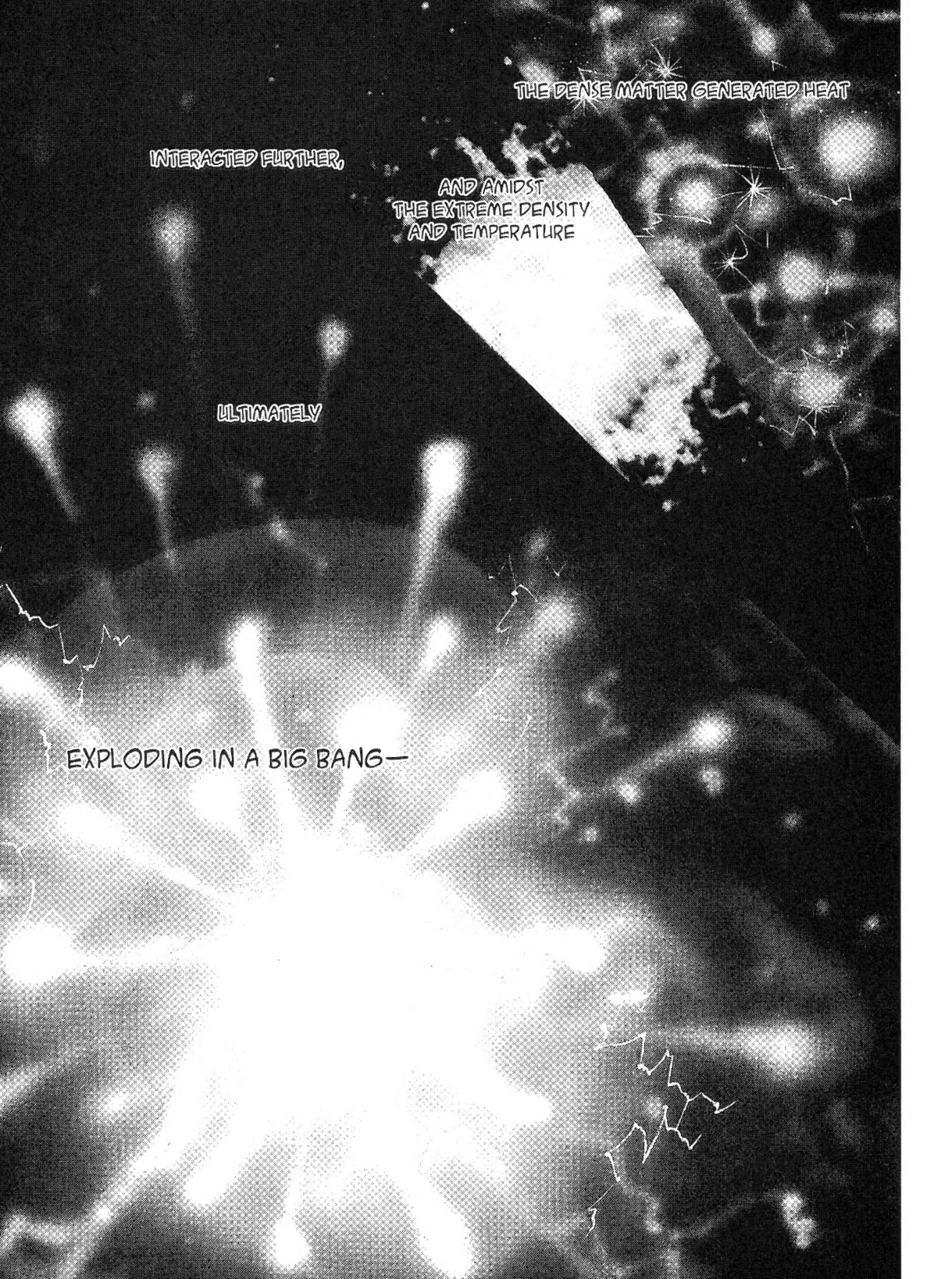
NOW AT THE END OF ETERNITY

TO FORM A THIN
NEUTRONIC
CLOUD,

DRIFTED TOGETHER
AT LAST

TUGGING AT ONE ANOTHER BY
FORCE OF GRAVITY,

INCREASING IN DENSITY.



THE DENSE MATTER GENERATED HEAT

INTERACTED FURTHER,

AND AMIDST
THE EXTREME DENSITY
AND TEMPERATURE

ULTIMATELY

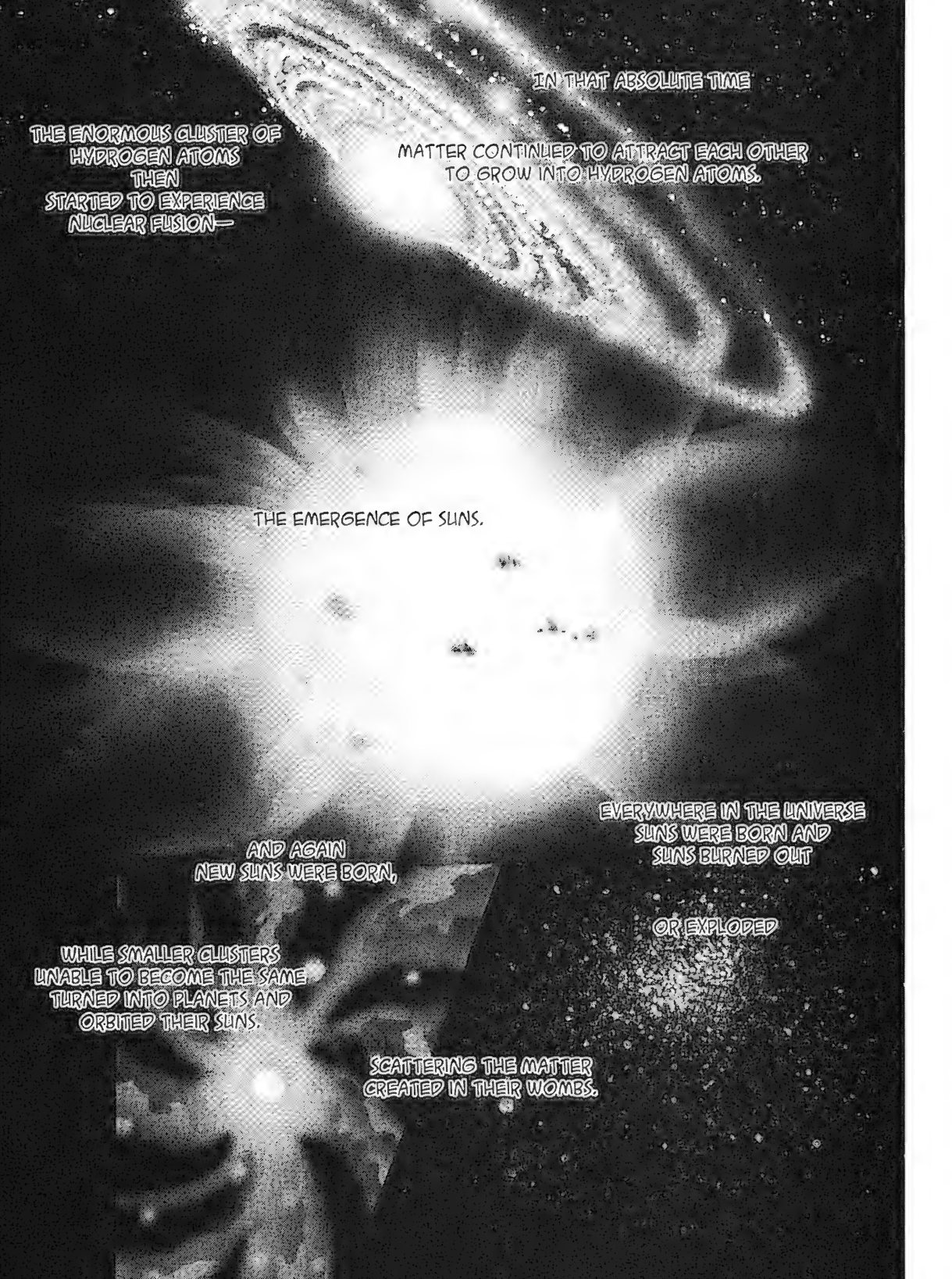
EXPLODING IN A BIG BANG—



THUS
"SPACE" AND "TIME" WERE BORN.

FROM PAST TOWARDS FUTURE
THE COSMOS EXPANDED,

TIME FLOWING AT THE SPEED
AT WHICH IT EXPANDED.



THE ENORMOUS CLUSTER OF
HYDROGEN ATOMS
THEN
STARTED TO EXPERIENCE
NUCLEAR FUSION—

IN THAT ABSOLUTE TIME

MATTER CONTINUED TO ATTRACT EACH OTHER
TO GROW INTO HYDROGEN ATOMS.

THE EMERGENCE OF SUNS.

AND AGAIN
NEW SUNS WERE BORN,

EVERYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE
SUNS WERE BORN AND
SUNS BURNED OUT

WHILE SMALLER CLUSTERS
UNABLE TO BECOME THE SAME
TURNED INTO PLANETS AND
ORBITED THEIR SUNS.

OR EXPLODED

SCATTERING THE MATTER
CREATED IN THEIR WOMBS.

THUS SEPARATELY
DREW AND SPUN TOGETHER,

GROWING INTO NEBULAE.

THE FLOW OF A HUNDRED
BILLION YEARS—

THE SCATTERED CLOUDS OF
HYDROGEN WAITING IN THE
VAST UNIVERSE

THE DISTANCE TO ONE OF THOSE NEBULAE,
THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY,
IS 2.2 MILLION LIGHT-YEARS.

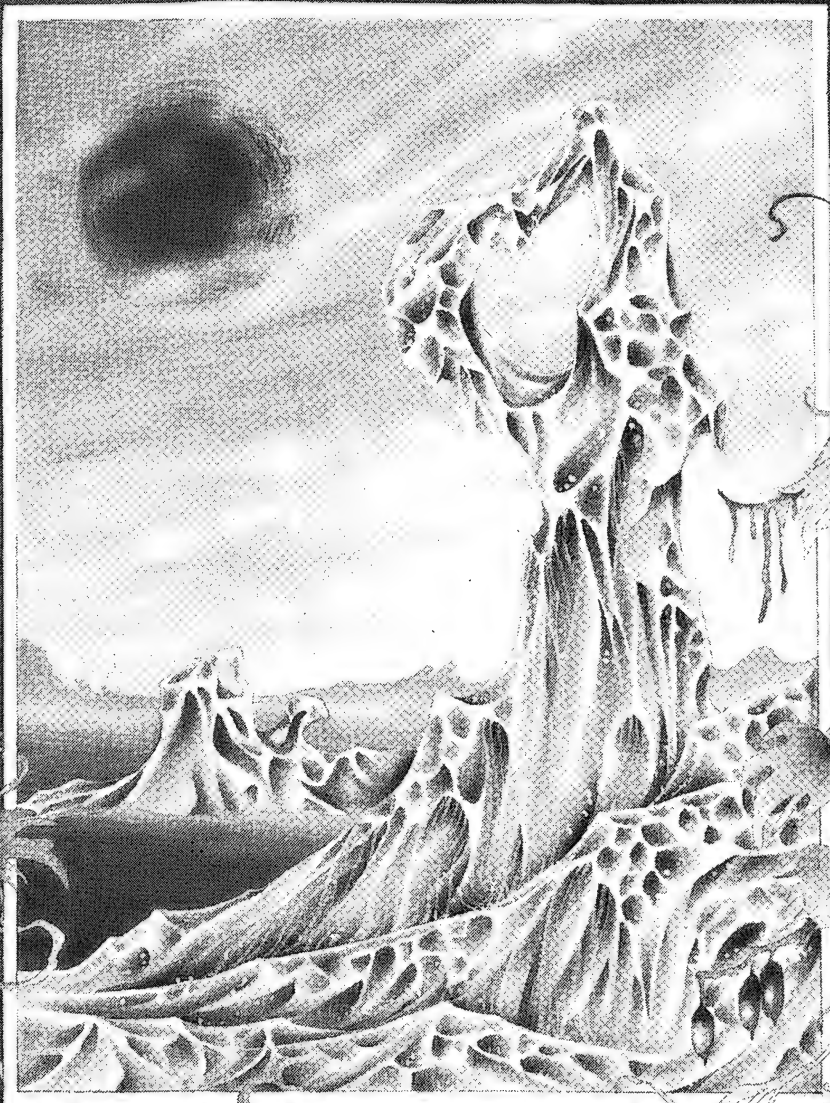
WHEN NO RECOGNIZABLE
ANCESTOR OF MANKIND
HAD YET APPEARED ON EARTH.

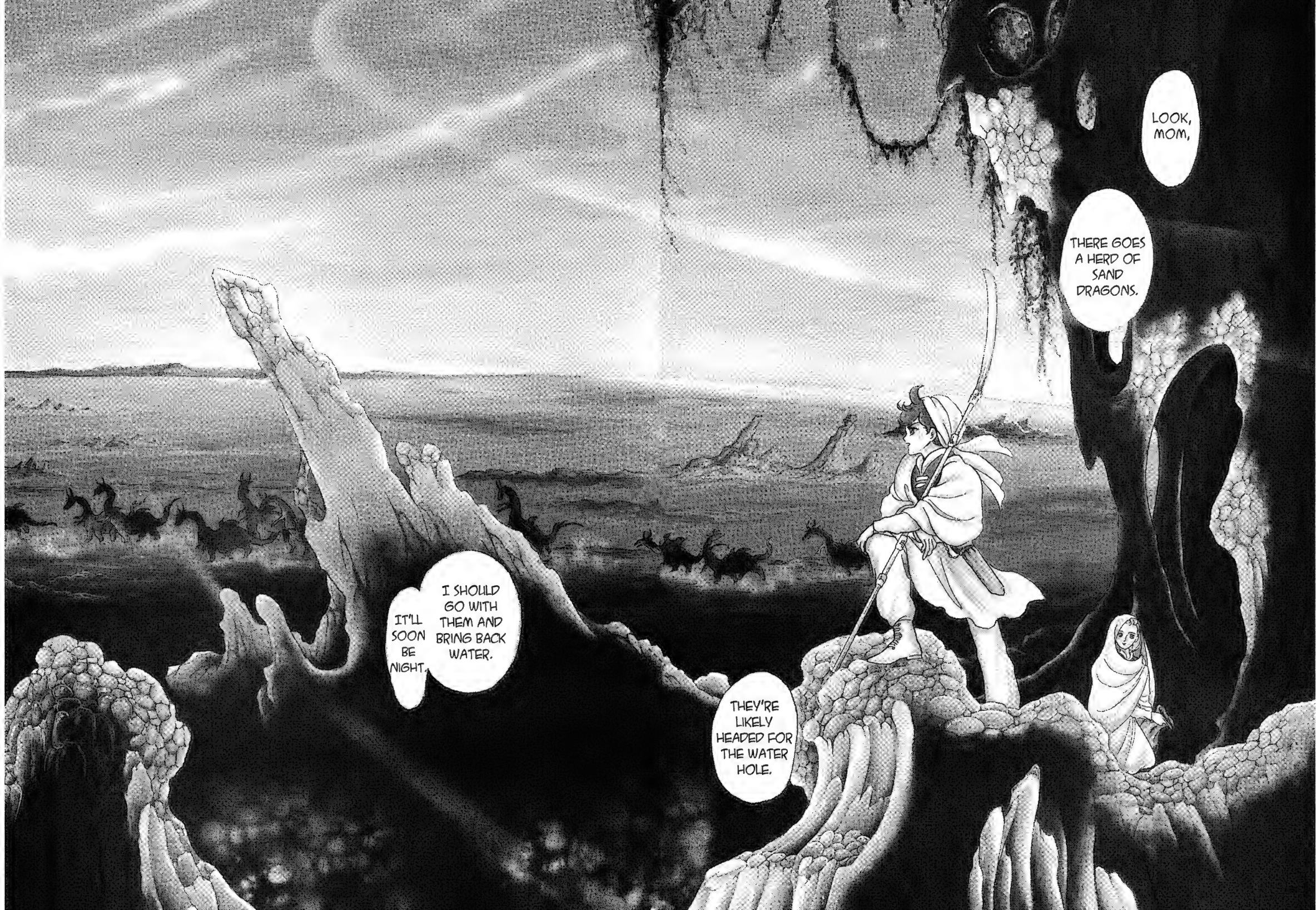
THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY WE SEE
UP IN THE SKY TONIGHT IS
THE ONE THAT EXISTED 2.2 MILLION
LONG YEARS AGO,

A FAINT STAIN OF LIGHT
THAT FLOATS IN THE NIGHT SKY,

ANDROMEDA

STIRS STRANGE ROMANCES
IN THOSE WHO BEHOLD IT.





LOOK,
MOM,

THERE GOES
A HERD OF
SAND
DRAGONS.

IT'LL
SOON
BE
NIGHT.

I SHOULD
GO WITH
THEM AND
BRING BACK
WATER.

THEY'RE
LIKELY
HEADED FOR
THE WATER
HOLE.



TAKE
CARE.

YOU
TOO,
MOM!



IT'S BEEN FIVE CYCLES
SINCE WE BEGAN LIVING
IN THE BADLANDS.

DOES THE BOY
UNDERSTAND?

JIMSA...



PLANET ASTRIAS
THE COSMORALIAN EMPIRE

FIFTH DAY—

THE MONTH WHEN
BLUE PISCES
IS CROSSED BY
A WHITE RAINBOW

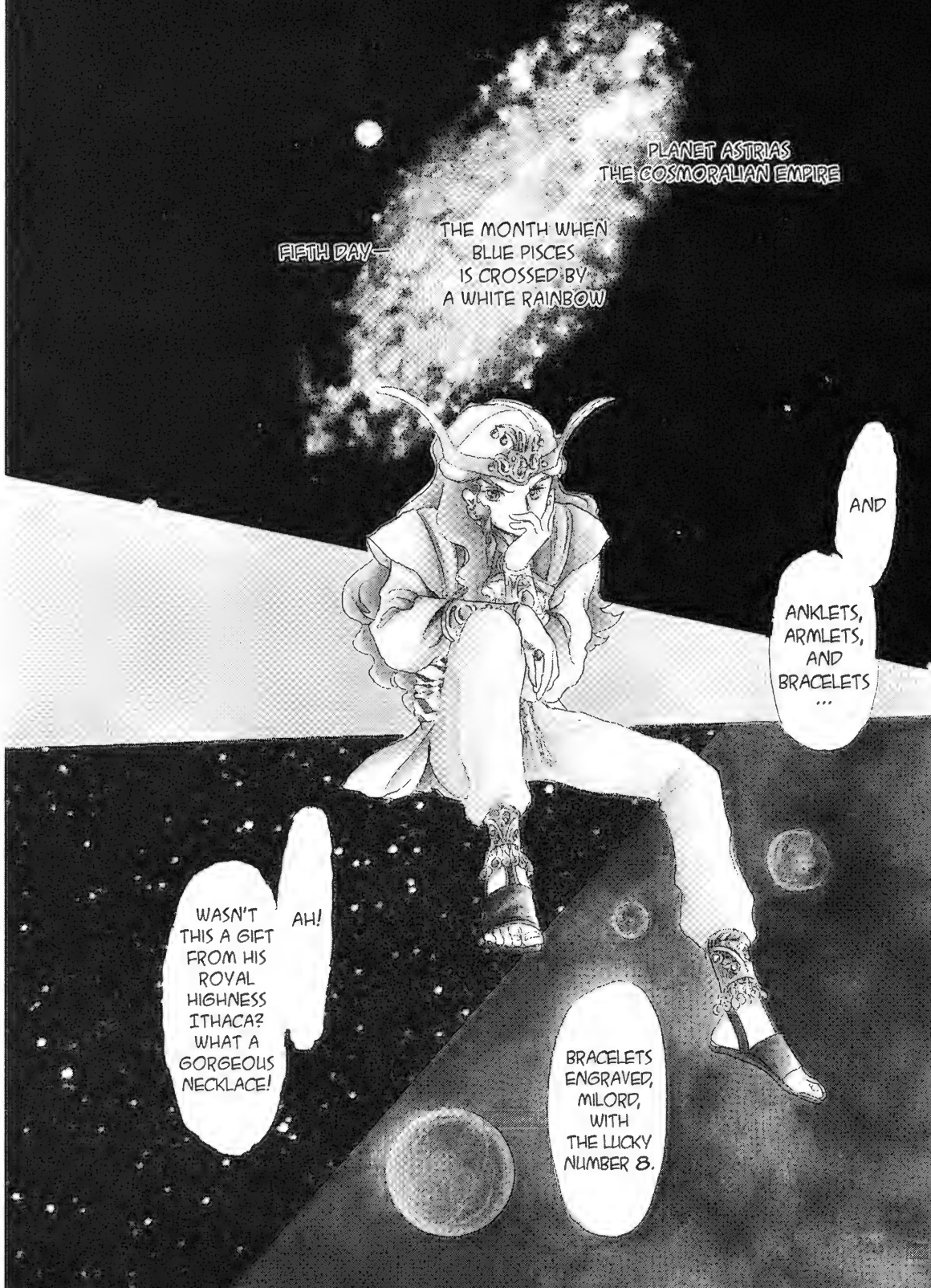
AND

ANKLETS,
ARMLETS,
AND
BRACELETS
...

WASN'T
THIS A GIFT
FROM HIS
ROYAL
HIGHNESS
ITHACA?
WHAT A
GORGEOUS
NECKLACE!

AH!

BRACELETS
ENGRAVED,
MILORD,
WITH
THE LUCKY
NUMBER 8.





IT
MAKES ME
SICK JUST
TO SEE
THEM
LAID
OUT,
BUT
YOUR
ITEMIZING
THEM IS
GIVING ME
STIFF
SHOUL-
DERS.

ENOUGH,
NURSE
TARAMA!

A TIARA,
TASSELS,
AND
A COIN
CROWN,
AND—



IT'D
BREAK
HER
NECK!

THINK OF
LILIA WHO'D
ACTUALLY
HAVE TO
WEAR ALL
THAT
JEWELRY!

WHAT
DO YOU
TAKE
THIS
FOR?

A BRIDE IS MOST
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
EVIL FORCES!
ARE YOU SAYING
WE SHOULD
SEND OUR PRINCESS
OFF WITHOUT
CHARMS?

S-SUCH
BLAS-
PHEMY!



AND
LILIA IS
INDEED
WORTH
THAT
MUCH.

CHARMS
AND
TALISMANS
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE
ANYWAY

HA!
WE
ALREADY
CONDUCTED
SUCH
RITUALS
BACK IN
AYODOYA!

IF THE
DEMON-
KING
FELL IN
LOVE
WITH
HER.



HOW
IMPROPER—
JEALOUS
OF HIS
SISTER'S
MARRIAGE
!!

LET HIM
BE. HIS
HIGHNESS
IS RATHER
MIFFED THAT
HIS SISTER
IS GETTING
MARRIED.

SOME
ATTITUDE
!

REALLY!
DIDN'T
HE COME
ALONG
TO
HELP?

WHAT'S
GOT HIM
UPSET
NOW?

BROTHER...



NOW...
HAVE A
LOOK,
PRINCE
MILAN.

AYODOYA'S
PRINCESS,
THE PEERLESS
BEAUTY,
RESPLENDENT
IN HER
MOMENT OF
GLORY!





CAT
GOT MATTAR,
YOUR TONGUE
?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
YOUR
TONGUE
?



BROTHER...

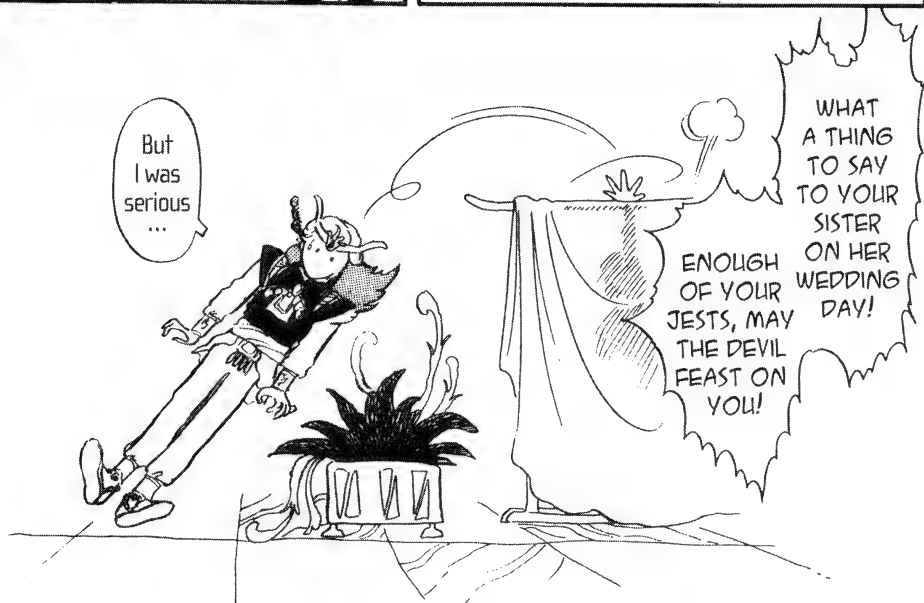


LILIA...



BASTARD!
EVEN IF
ITHACA IS
MY FRIEND
I WANT TO
KILL HIM!

THAT'S NOT
IT... I'M
CONFUSED.
I WANT
TO
EMBRACE
HER...

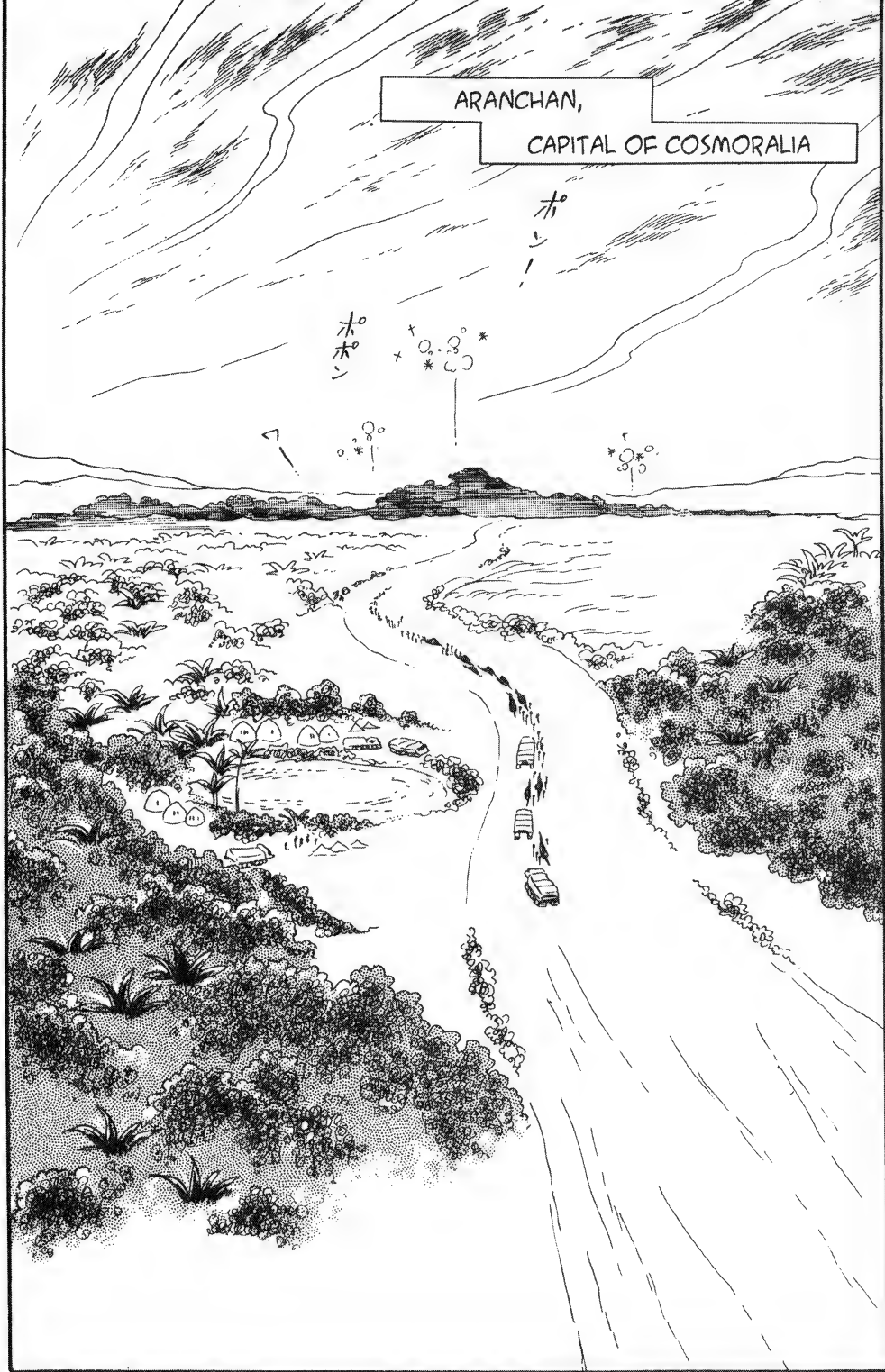


But
I was
serious
...

WHAT
A THING
TO SAY
TO YOUR
SISTER
ON HER
WEDDING
DAY!
ENOUGH
OF YOUR
JESTS, MAY
THE DEVIL
FEAST ON
YOU!

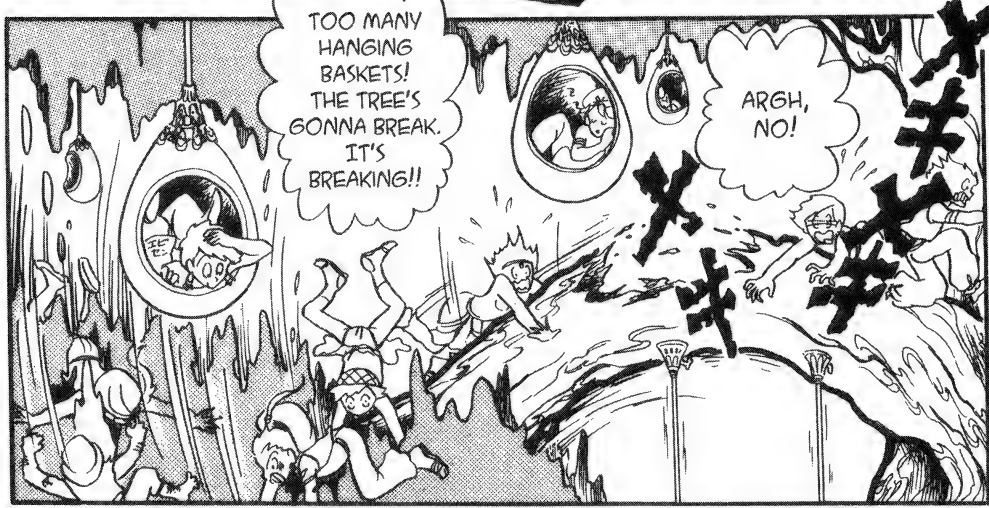
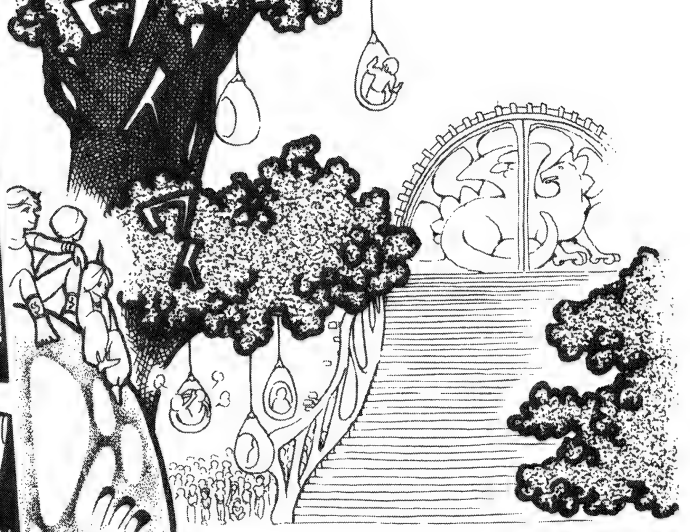
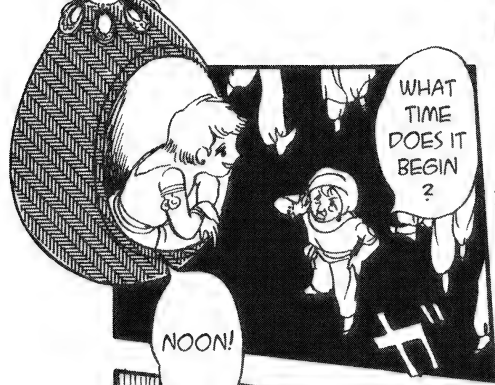
ARANCHAN,

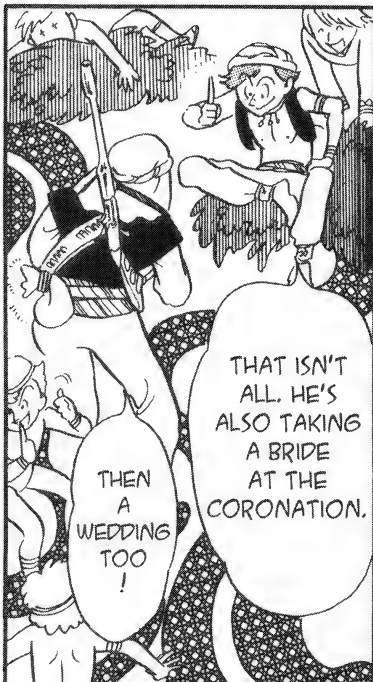
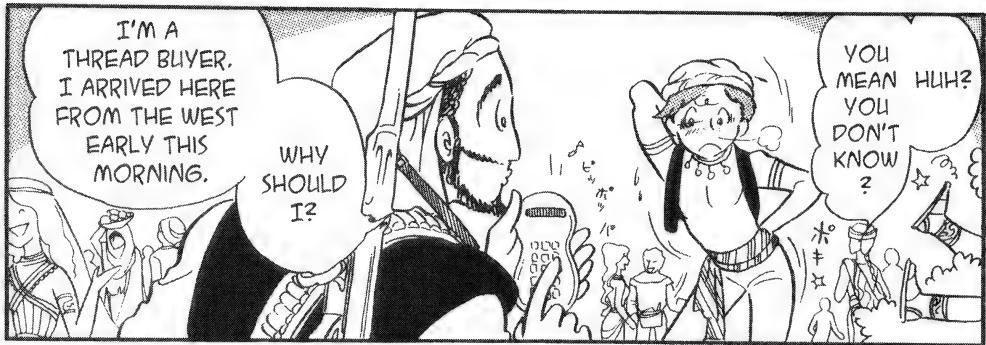
CAPITAL OF COSMORALIA

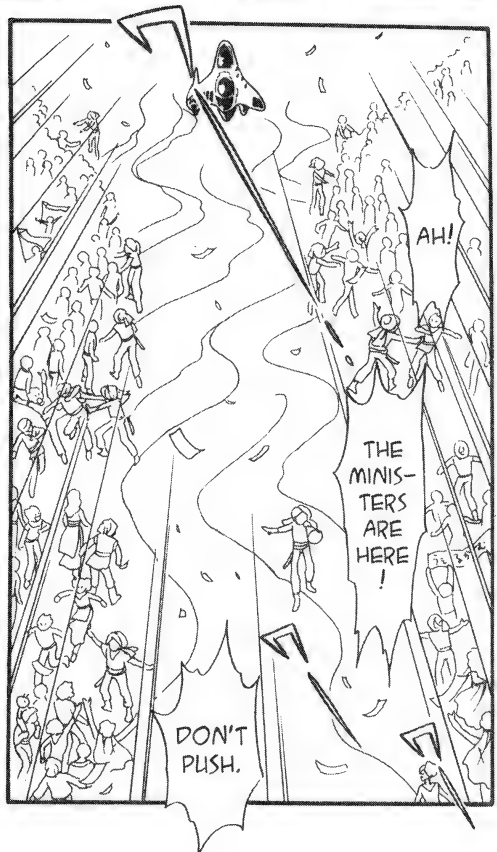
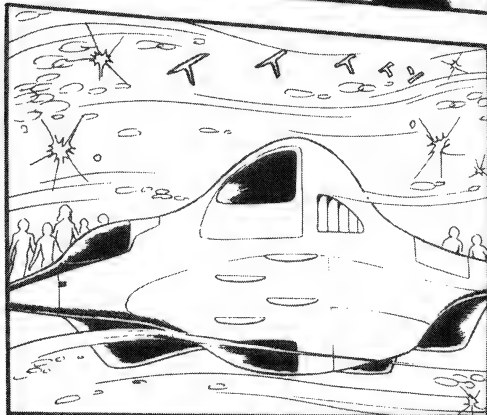
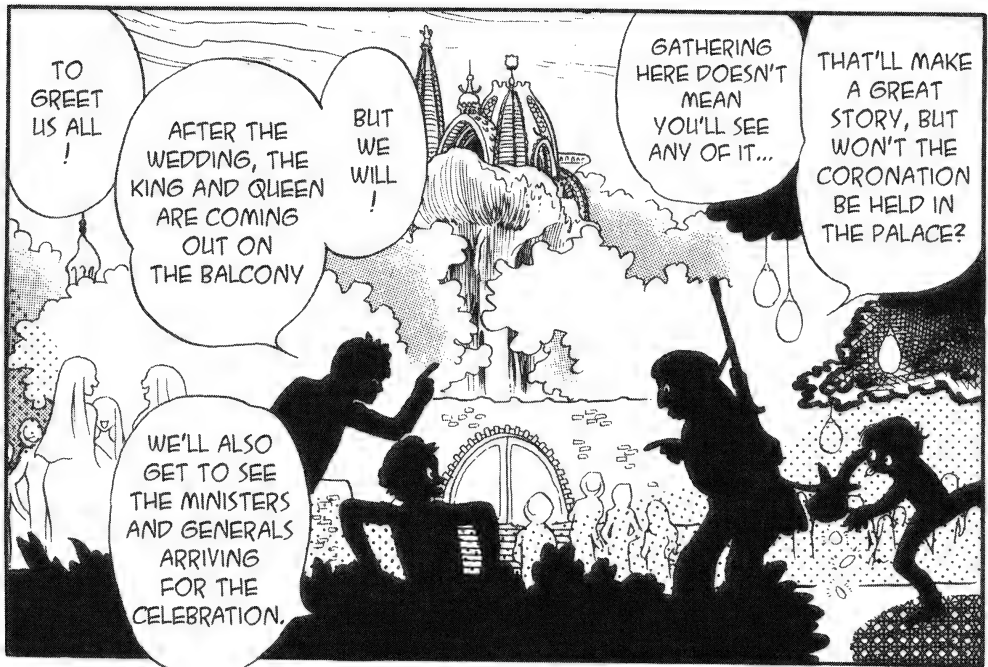


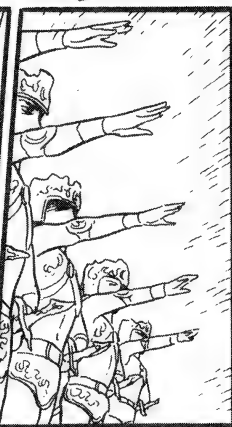
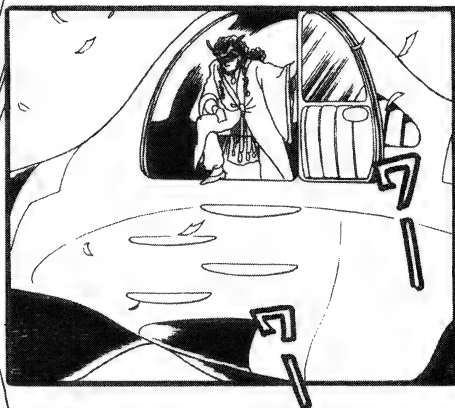
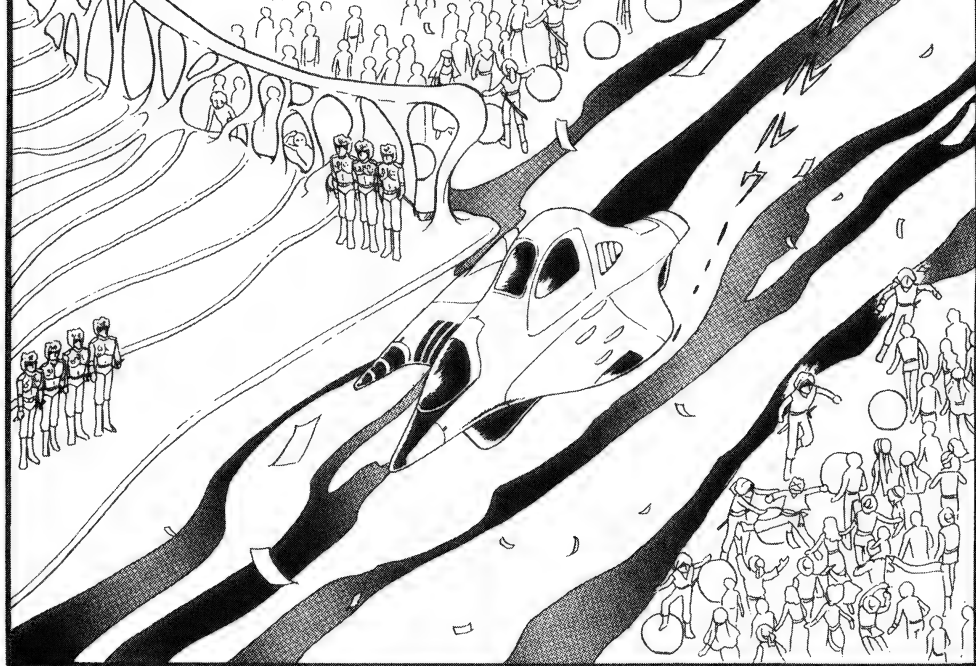
ARTEIL CASTLE

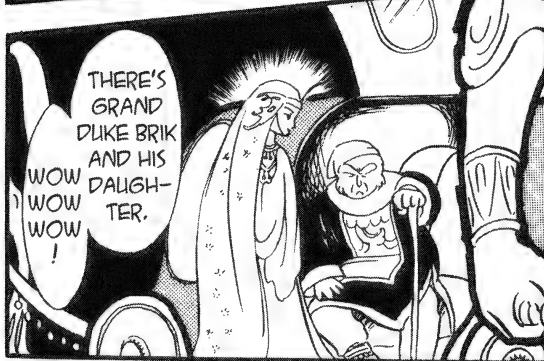
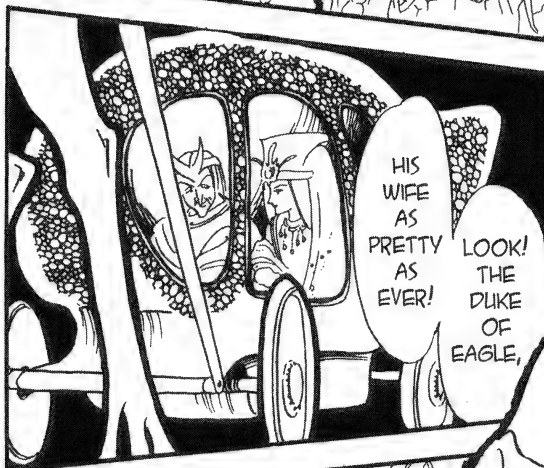
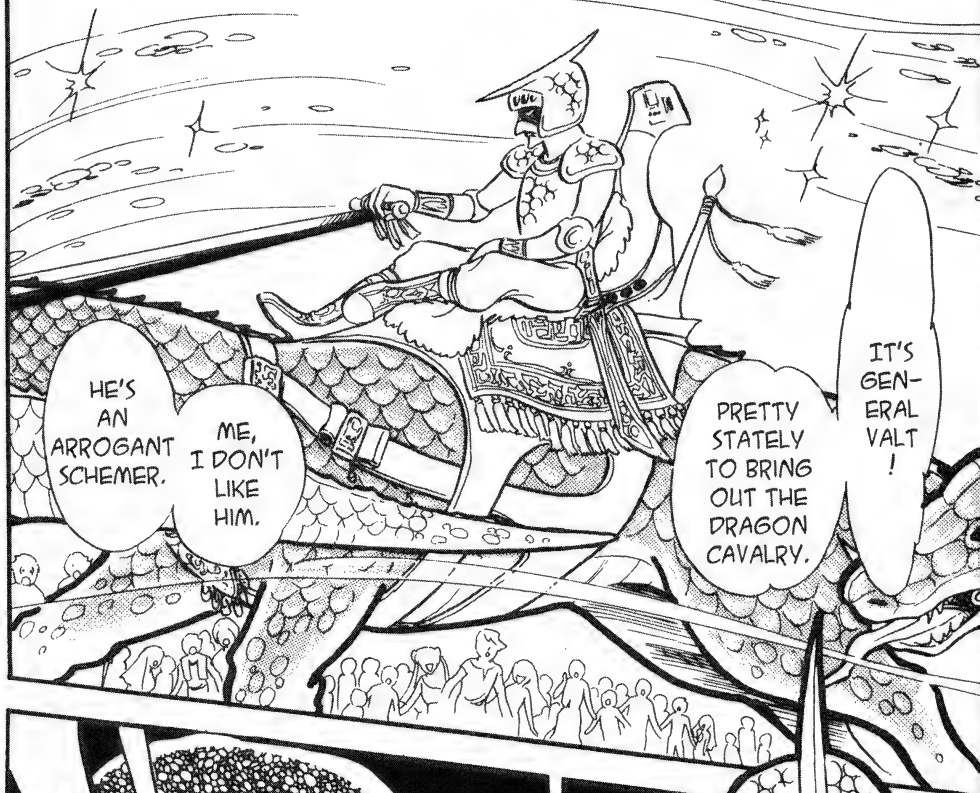












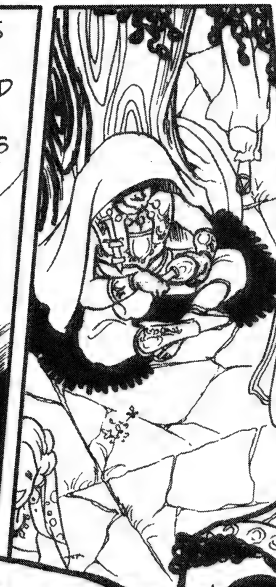
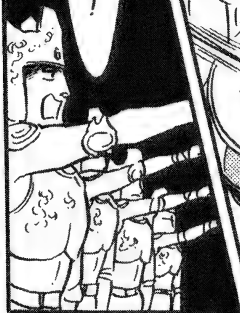


GUESS
I
SHOULD
GET
GOING
TOO!

YOU
WERE
RIGHT
HERE
ALL
THIS
TIME
?!

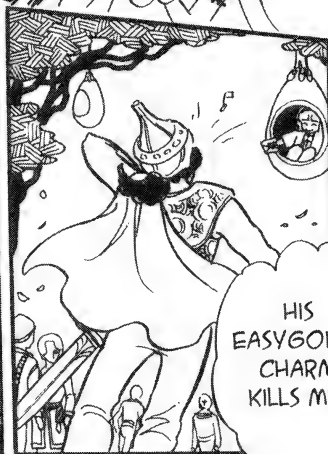


S
A
L
U
T
E
!



IT'S
SIR
BALGA
THE
SWORD-
MAN!

SIR
BALGA
!



HIS
EASYGOING
CHARM
KILLS ME!



ON
BEHALF
OF THE
KING
OF
AYODOYA,

HIS
ROYAL
HIGH-
NESS
PRINCE
MILAN
!

THAT
RED HAIR
RUNS IN
AYODOYA'S
HEIRS.

I
ENVY
HER
!

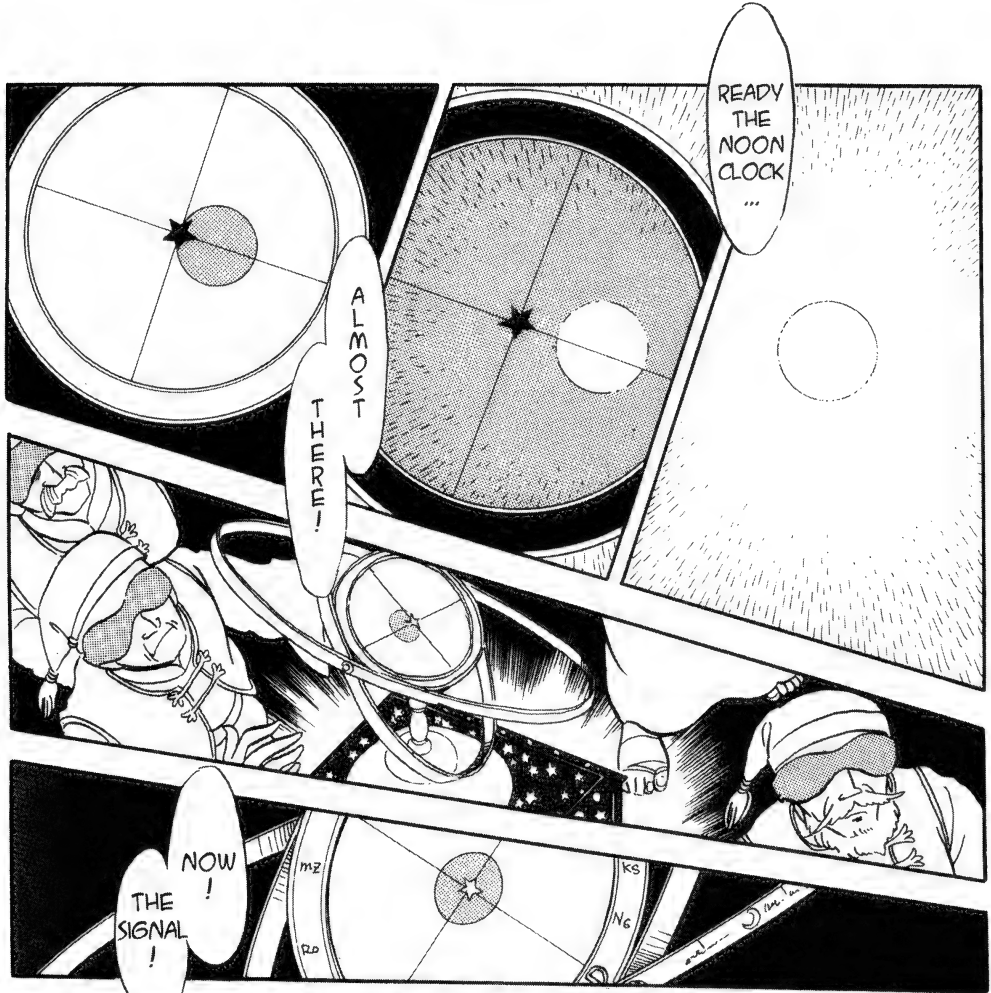
HE'S
THE ELDER
BROTHER
OF THE
PRINCESS
BRIDE.

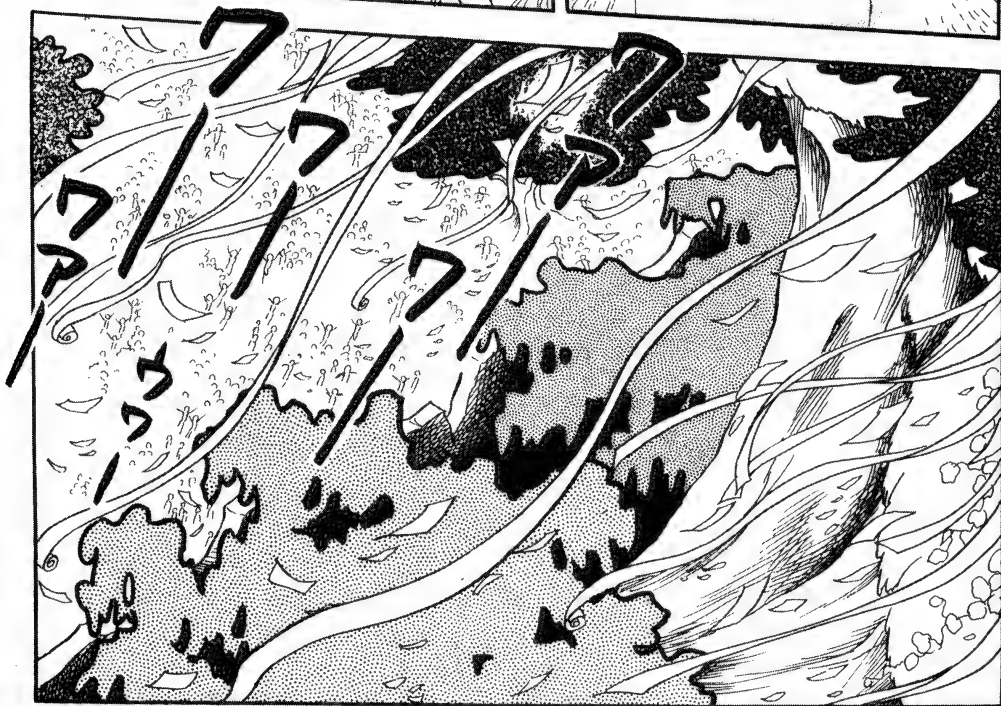
HE'S
SO
SLIM!

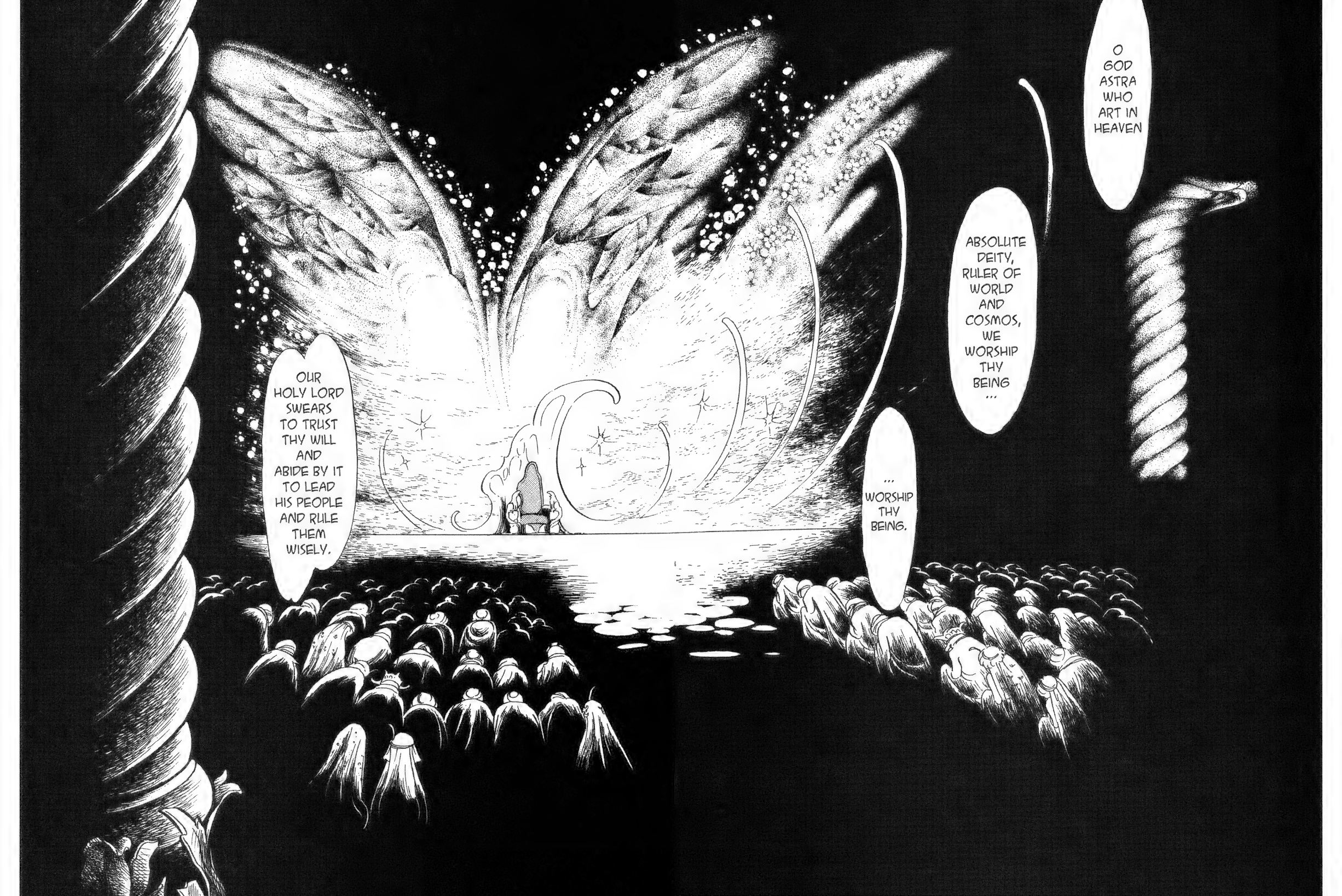
HE'S
LOVELY
...

OH,
YOU
TRAITOR
!

HE'S
MORE
HANDSOME
THAN OUR
CROWN
PRINCE
ITHACA







O
GOD
ASTRA
WHO
ART IN
HEAVEN

ABSOLUTE
DEITY,
RULER OF
WORLD
AND
COSMOS,
WE
WORSHIP
THY
BEING
...

...
WORSHIP
THY
BEING.

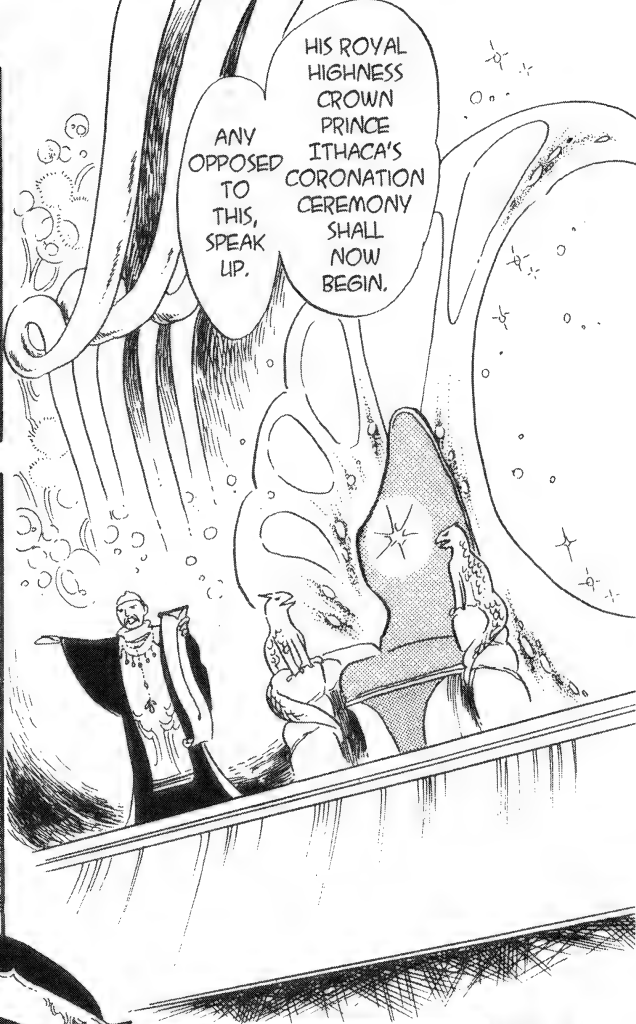
OUR
HOLY LORD
SWEARS
TO TRUST
THY WILL
AND
ABIDE BY IT
TO LEAD
HIS PEOPLE
AND RULE
THEM
WISELY.



TO DARE
OPPOSE
THE AUGUST
CORONATION
OF HIS
MAJESTY
ASTRALTA III
!

OPPOSED?
LET
THE MAN
COME
FORTH!
I'LL
KILL HIM
MYSELF
!

STEADY,
GENERAL...
HE'S JUST
FOLLOWING
CUSTOM.



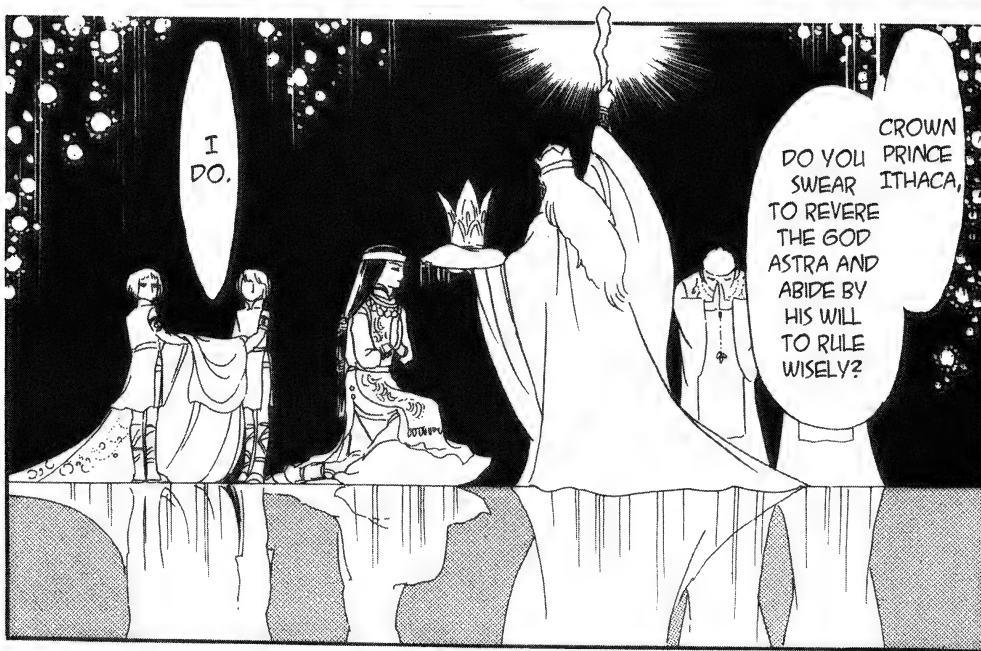
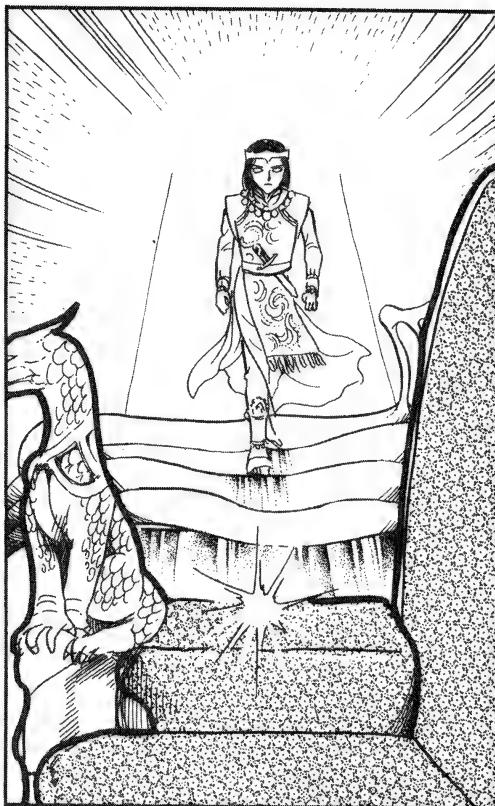
ANY
OPPOSED
TO
THIS,
SPEAK
UP.

HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS
CROWN
PRINCE
ITHACA'S
CORONATION
CEREMONY
SHALL
NOW
BEGIN.



CROWN
PRINCE,

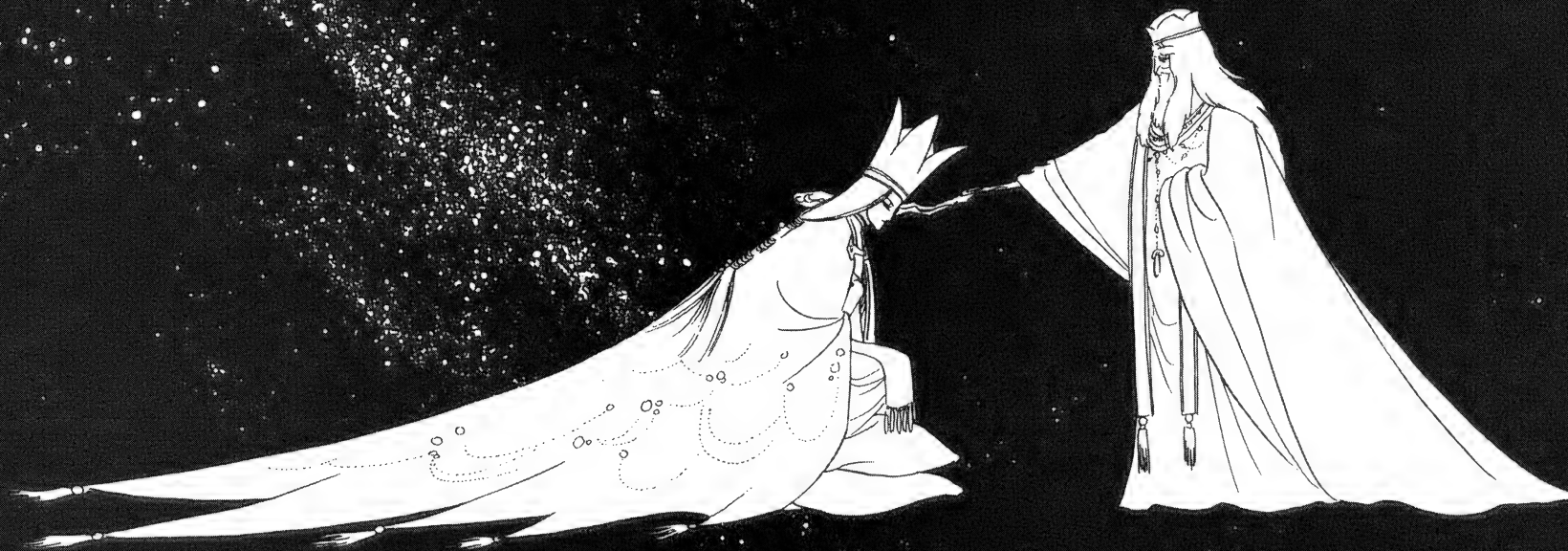
PLEASE
STEP
FOR-
WARD.



THE MONTH
WHEN BLUE PISCES
IS GROSSED BY
A WHITE RAINBOW.
FIFTH DAY.

FROM THE POSITIONS
OF THE STARS TO
THE BRIGHTNESS OF
THE SUN,
IT WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE THE
PERFECT DAY.

YEAR ZERO OF
THE PAPACY—
AT THIS MOMENT,
CROWN PRINCE
ITHACA BECAME
ASTRALTA III.



NONE
DID
NOTICE.

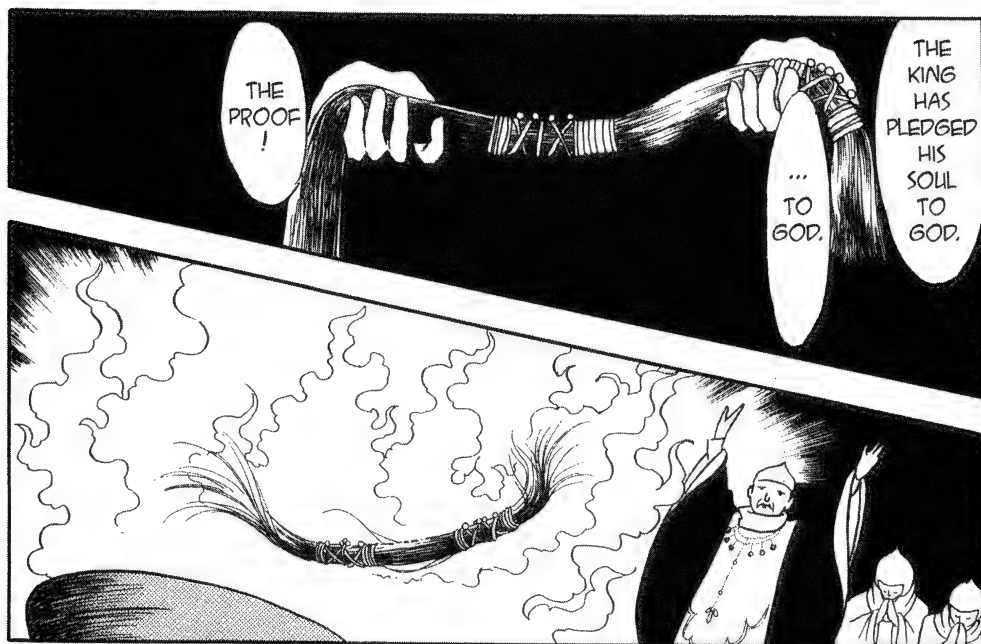
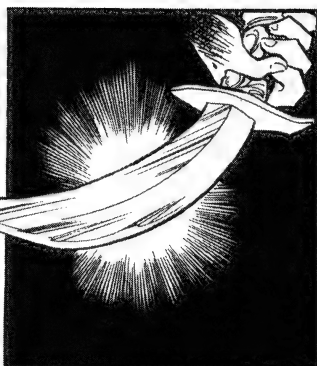
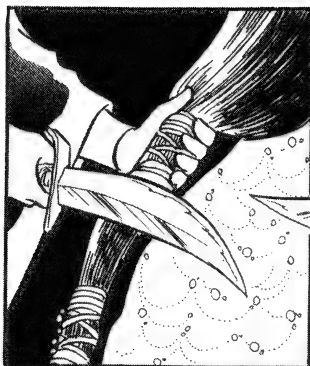
AND WAS BEING
DRAWN TOWARDS
PLANET ASTRIAS,



THAT A SMALL,
ILL-BODING STAR
HAD SLIPPED INTO
THE CELESTIAL
CONFIGURATION



MK1 PAPACY YEAR 0



AMAMEDAYANA
VANAYANAMEDA
AMAMEDAYANA

KING, TAKE
THE THRONE.

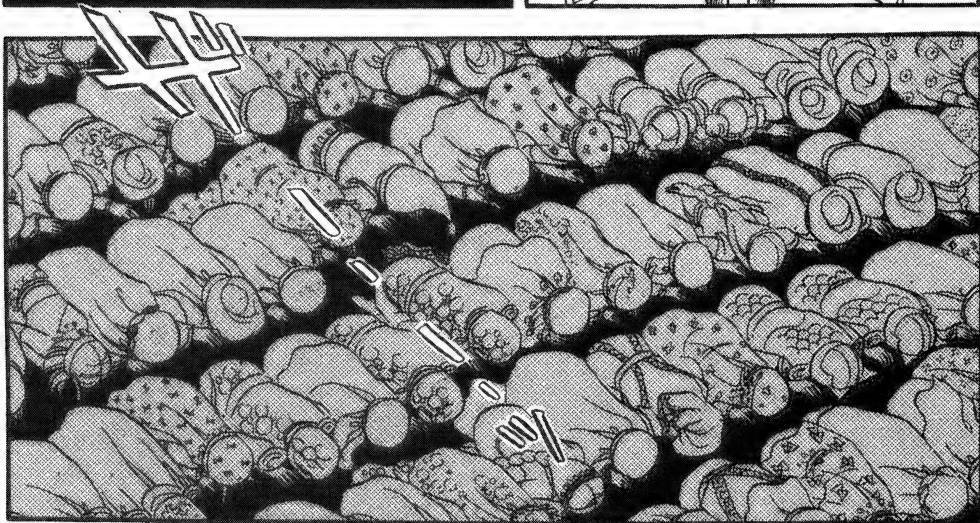
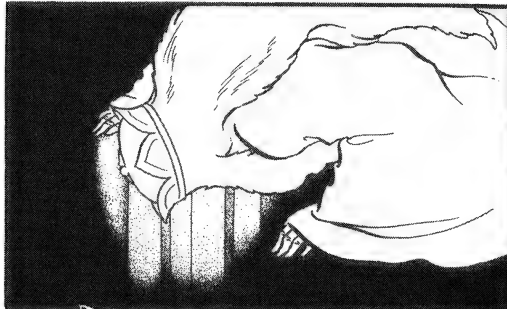
ASTRA KANAM
ASTRA SARSUL

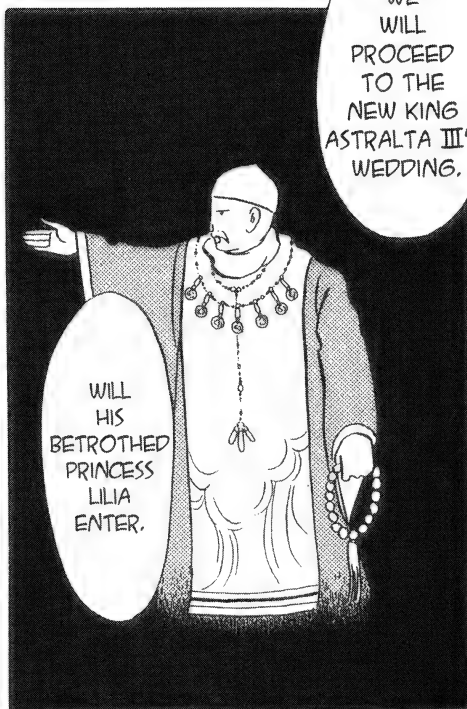
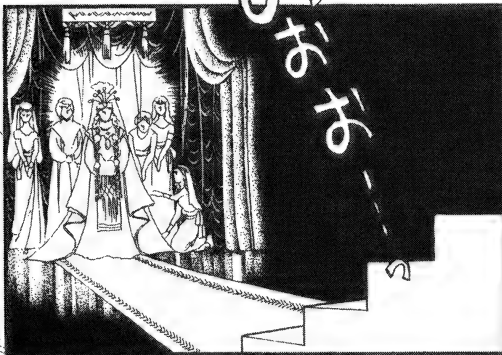
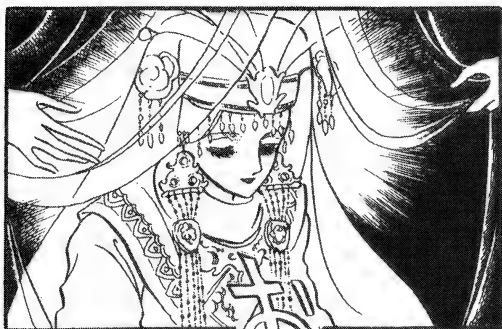
AMAMEDAYANA
VANAYANAMEDA

KING, TAKE
THE THRONE.

KING,
TAKE THE
THRONE!!

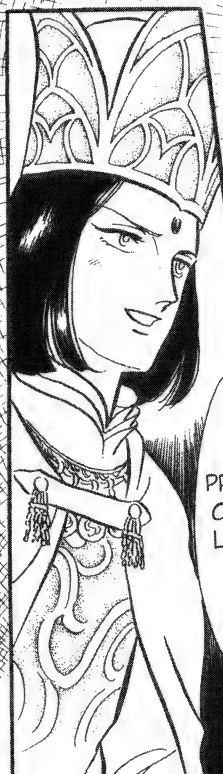






WE
WILL
PROCEED
TO THE
NEW KING
ASTRALTA III'S
WEDDING.

WILL
HIS
BETROTHED
PRINCESS
LILIA
ENTER.



PRIN-
CESS
LILIA
!

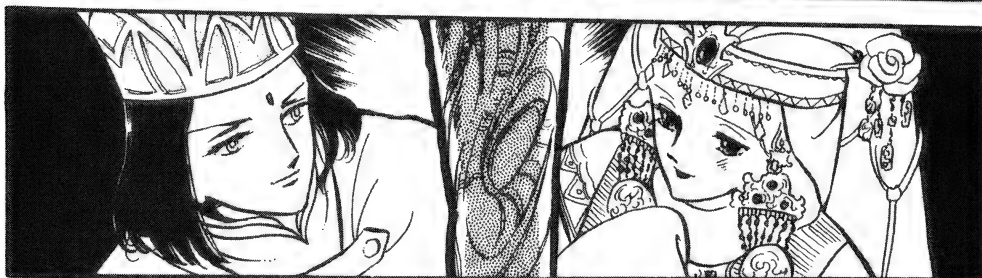
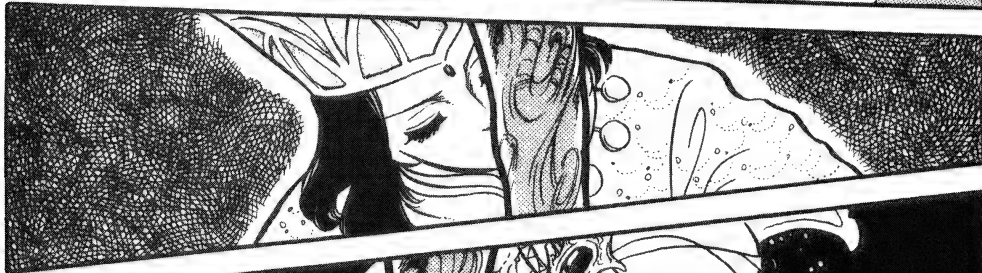
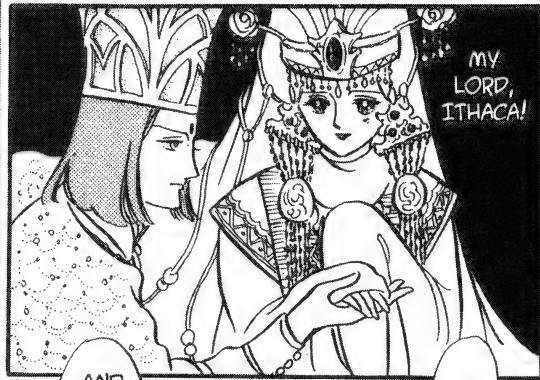
NAY,
ASTRIA'S
GREATEST
BEAUTY
!

FROM
NOW
COSMO-
RALIA'S,



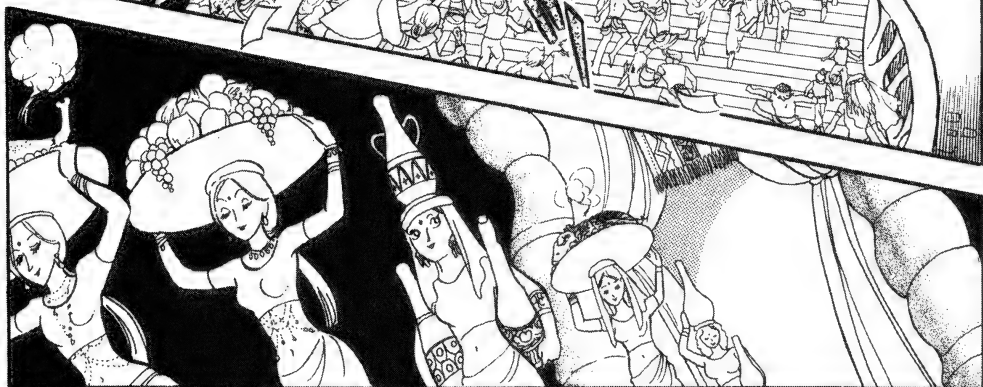
...
HOW
BEAUTIFUL!

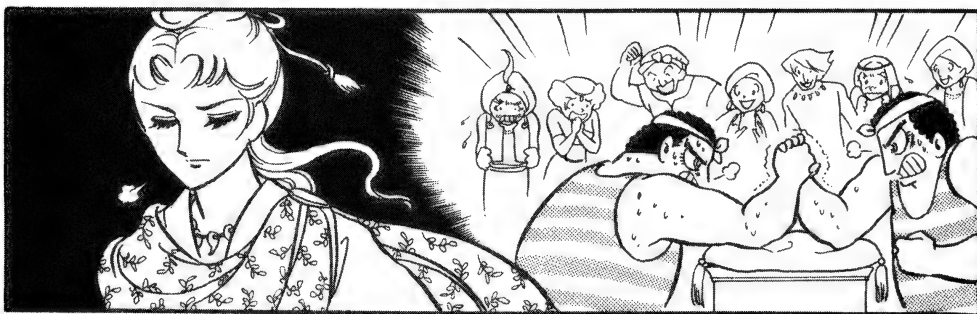
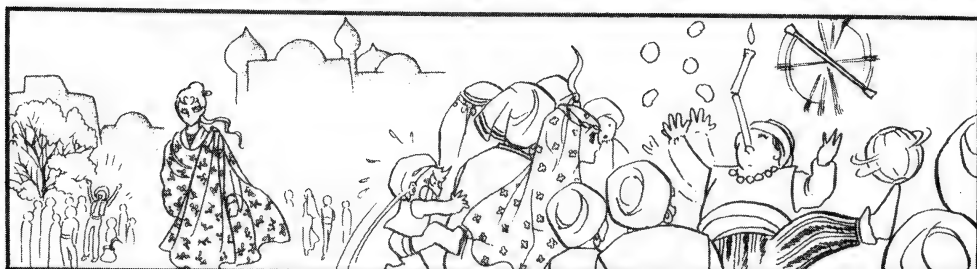
TRULY
THE
GREAT-
EST
BEAUTY
OF
AYO-
DOYA
...











LOOK OUT!

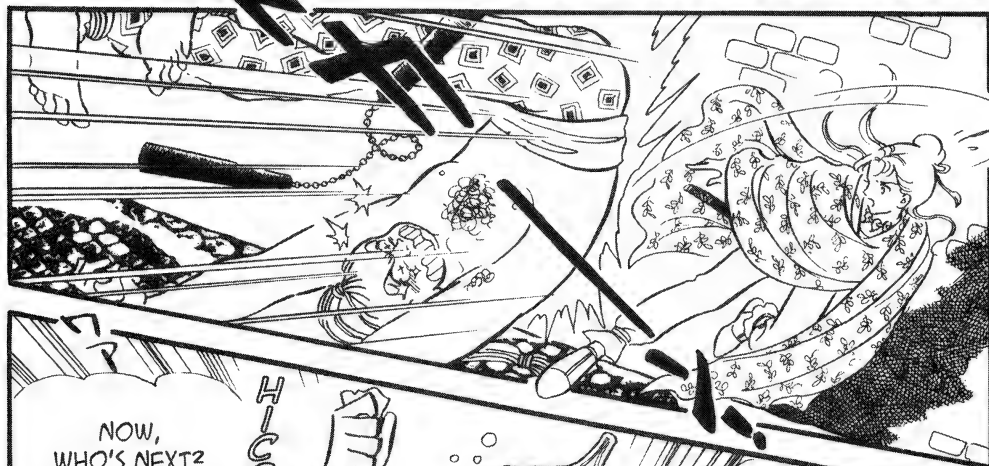
MOVE!

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

I DON'T WANT TO, BUT...

IS THIS HALCYON REALM TO FALL TO RUINS, TOO— LIKE RODLIAN?

SUCH A PEACEFUL COUNTRY!

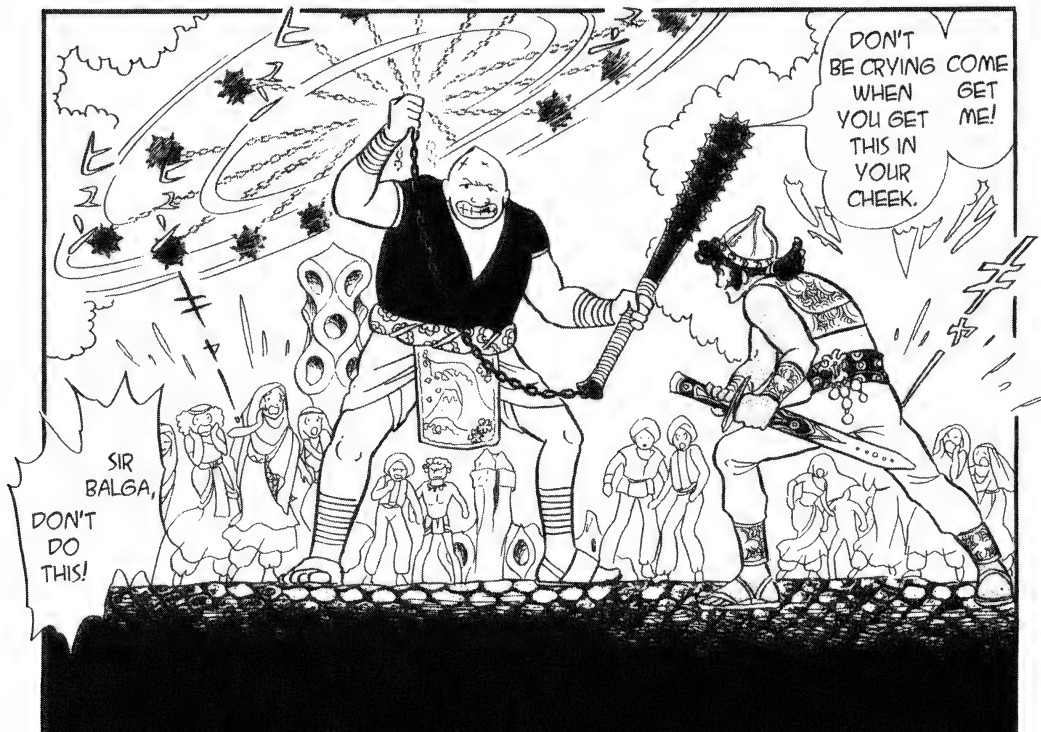
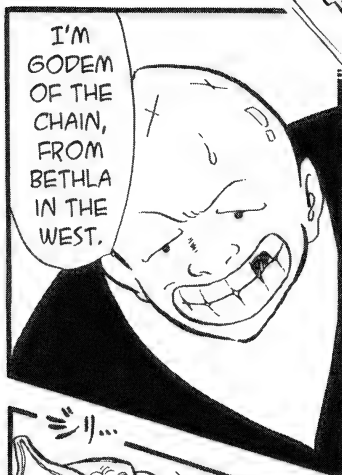


NOW, WHO'S NEXT? THERE'S 1,000 CREDITS IN IT FOR ANYONE WHO CAN BEAT ME!

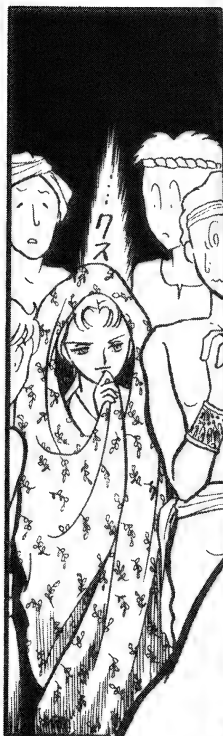
HIC

SORRY ABOUT THAT, DEAR GUEST!

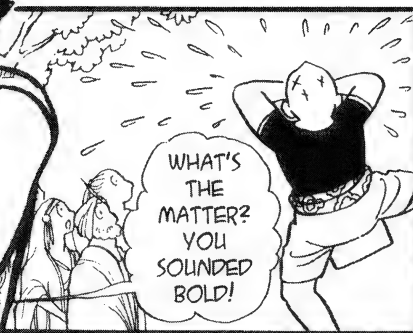
HA HA HA!







NONE
OF YOU
CAN EVEN
MAKE ME
DRAW
MY
SWORD?
COWARDS
!



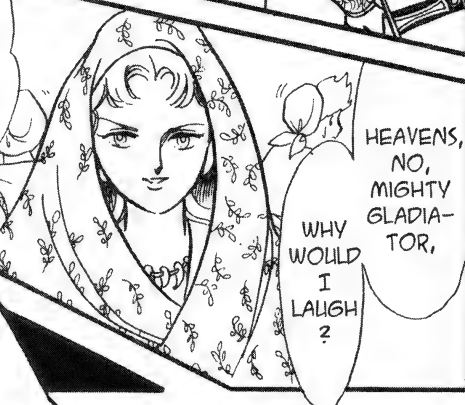
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
YOU
SOUNDED
BOLD!



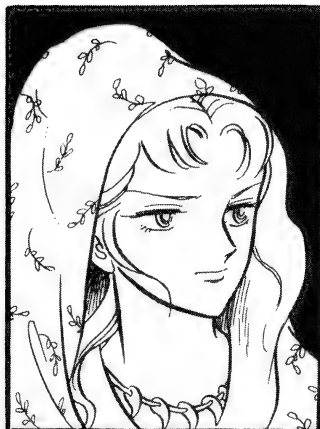
YOU
THERE
...!
DID
YOU
JUST
LAUGH
?



YOUR
SKILL
TOOK
MY
BREATH
AWAY.



HEAVENS,
NO,
MIGHTY
GLADIA-
TOR,
WHY
WOULD
I
LAUGH
?



I'LL
TEACH
YOU
TO
RESPECT
YOUR
ELDERS.

BUT
YOUR
YOUTH
IS NO
EXCUSE
TO
ME.



I
HEARD
YOU
LAUGH,
AND WHO
LAUGHS
IN AWE?

YOU
APPEAR
TO BE
A MERE
LAD,



DON'T
DARE
WALK
AWAY
!

YOU
THINK
I'M
BLIND
?

I SEE
A SWORD
UNDER
THAT THIN
SILK OF
YOURS!



FORGET

ON WITH
IT AND
FACE ME
!

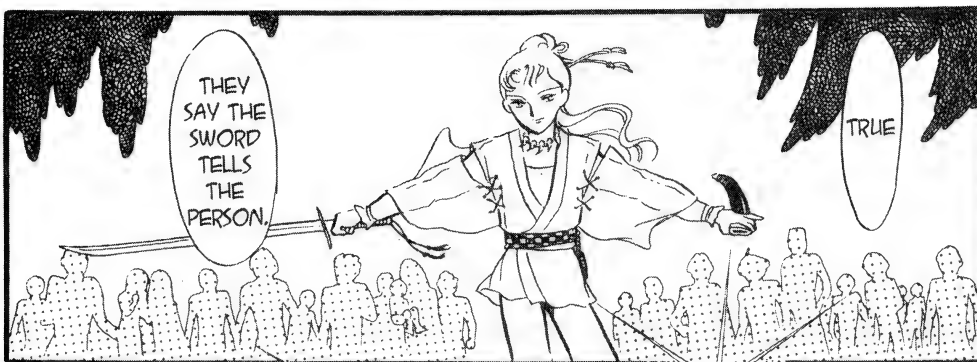
IF THERE'S
TROUBLE,
IT'S TO A
MILITARY
AIDE'S
SHAME!

I MAY BE
DRUNK,
BUT I
HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
MY
ROLE.

HIS
BEARING
IS NO
ORDINARY
LAD'S.

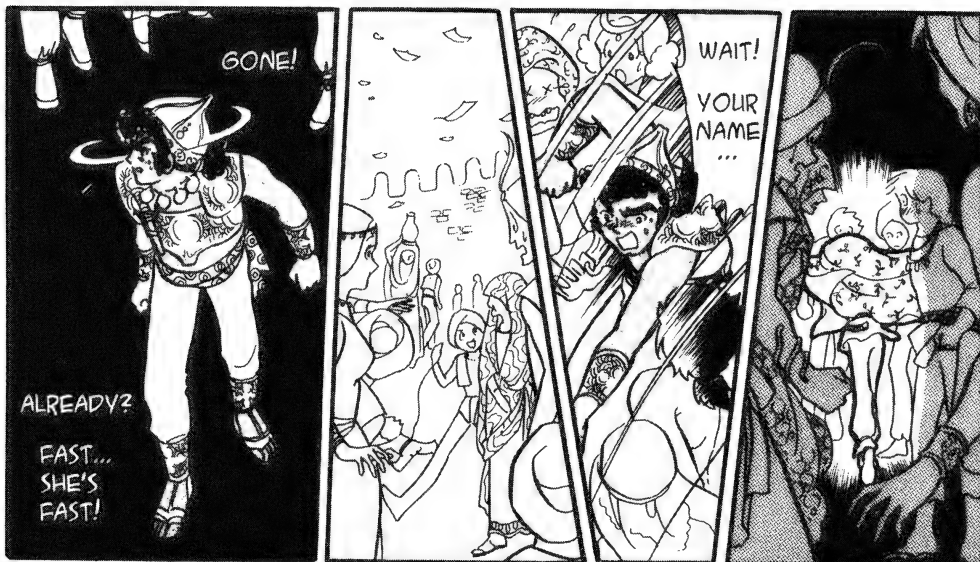
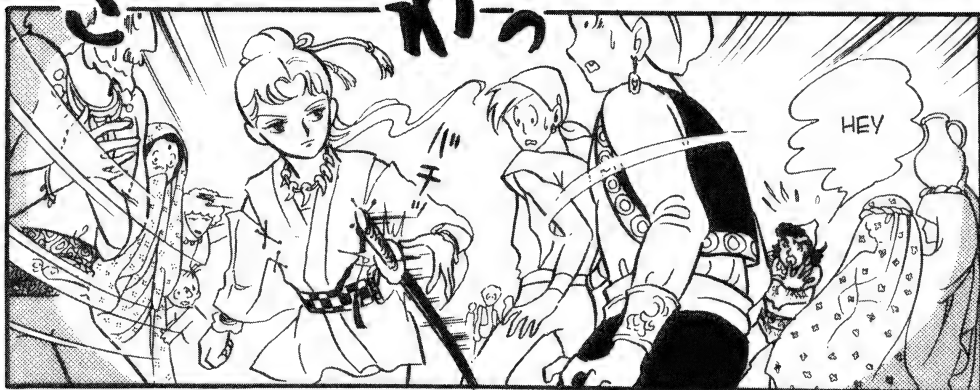
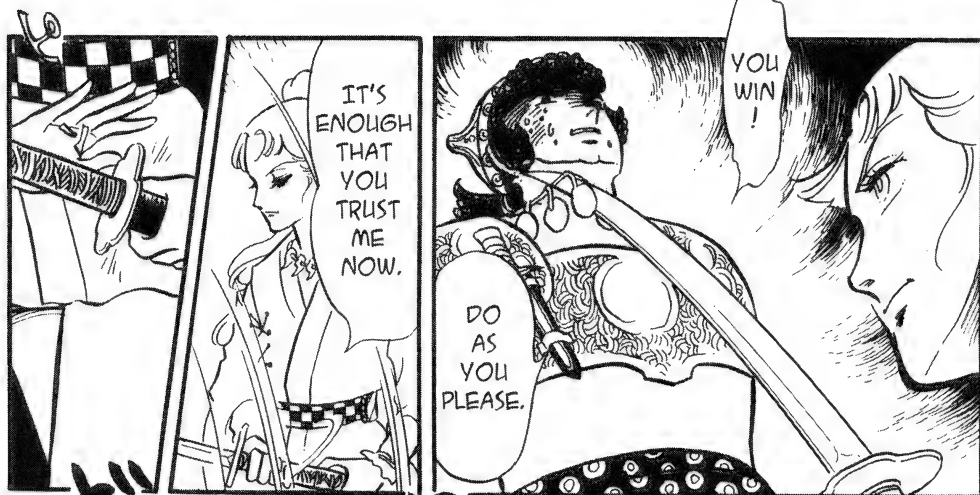
THE
CASTLE'S
BEEN
THROWN
OPEN FOR
THE HAPPY
DAY.













A
DRINK,
MY
LORD.



I
HEARD
YOU
WERE
GOOD
AT
ASTRO-
METRY.

THAT
EXCEPTIONALLY
BRIGHT
STAR—
WHAT
IS ITS
NAME
?

IN
THE BLUE
PISCES
CONSTEL-
LATION?
HMM...



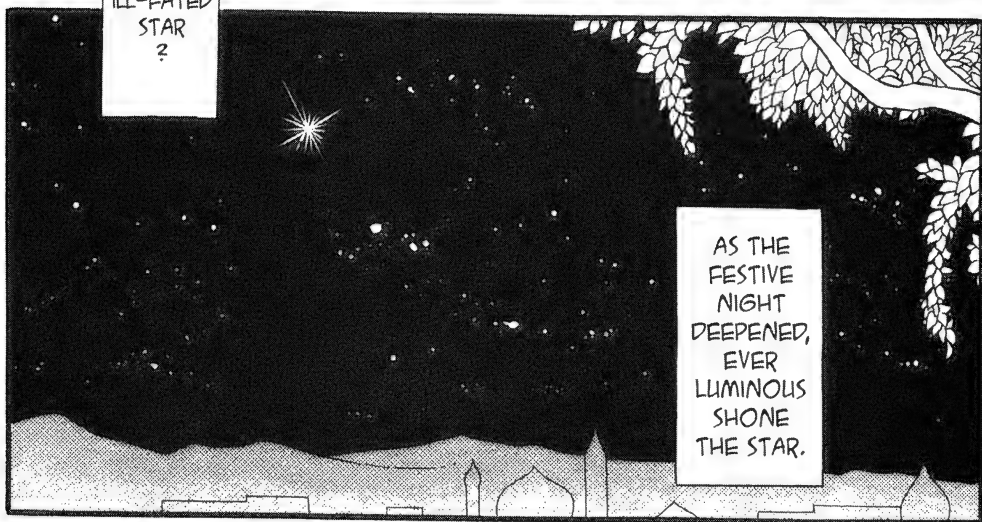
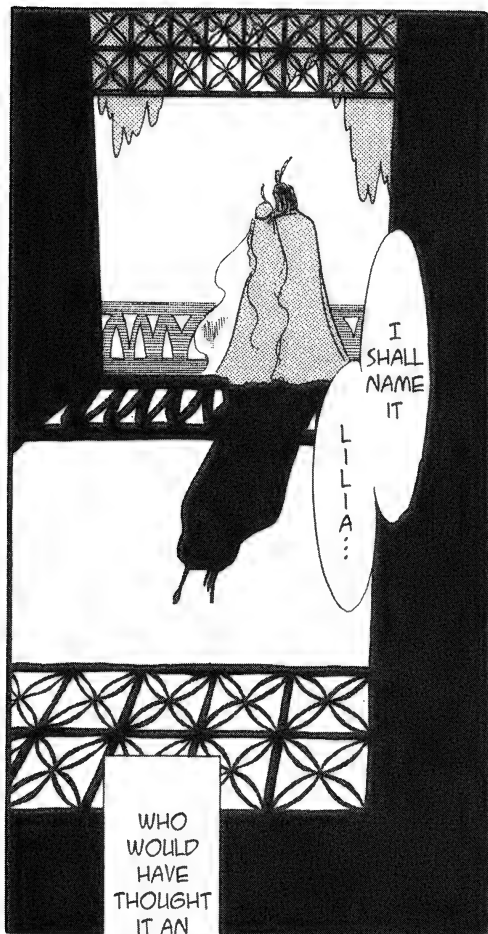
PEACE
FOR
THIS
REALM,
AND
HAPPI-
NESS
FOR YOU.

MY
LORD
!

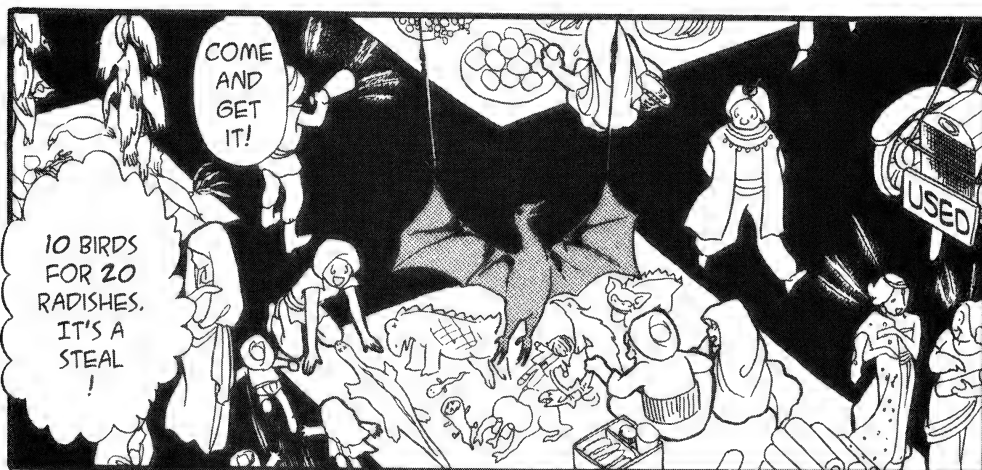
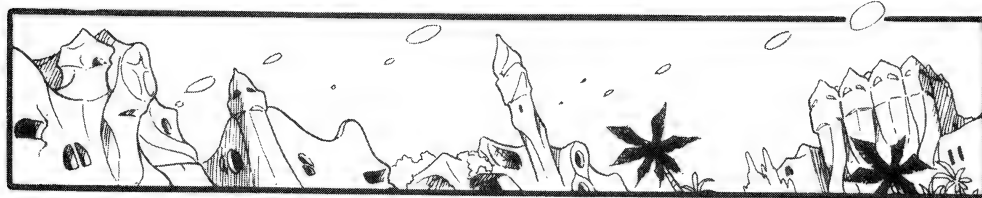
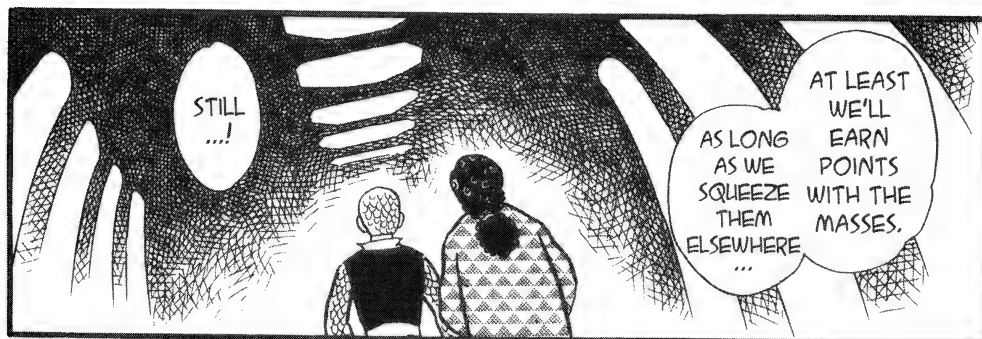


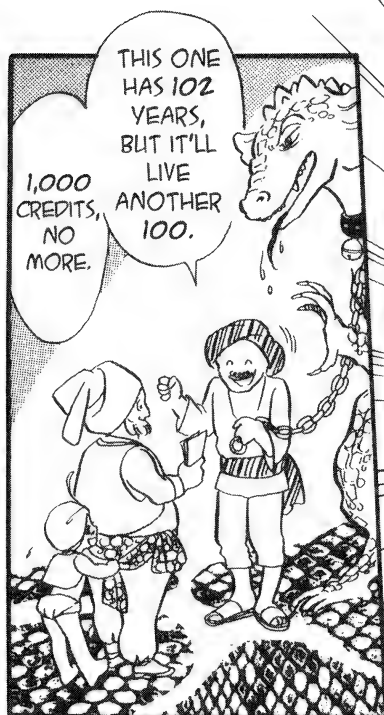
ASTRA
GOD'S
STARS...
LILIA,
I SWEAR,
AGAIN,
ON
THOSE
STARS:

MY,
ALREADY
SO
MANY
STARS
!



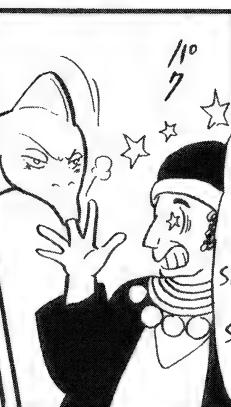
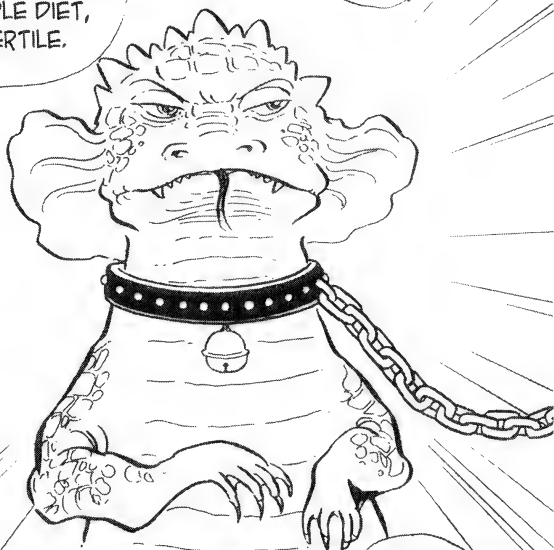


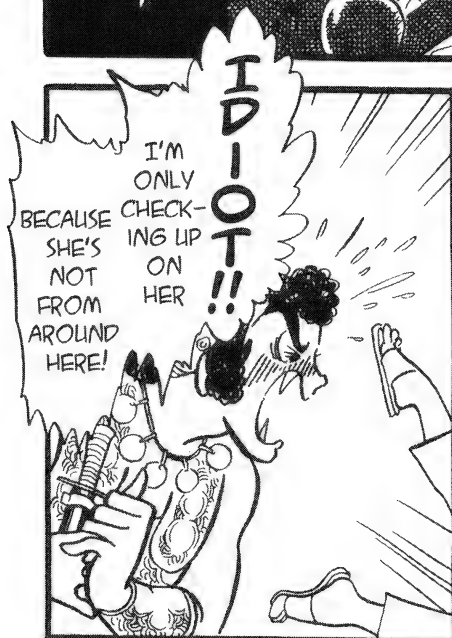
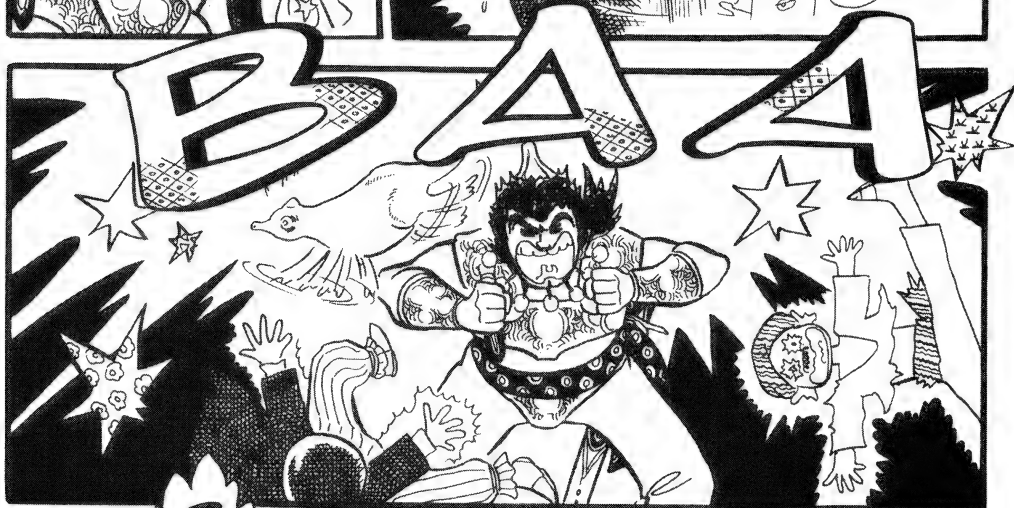
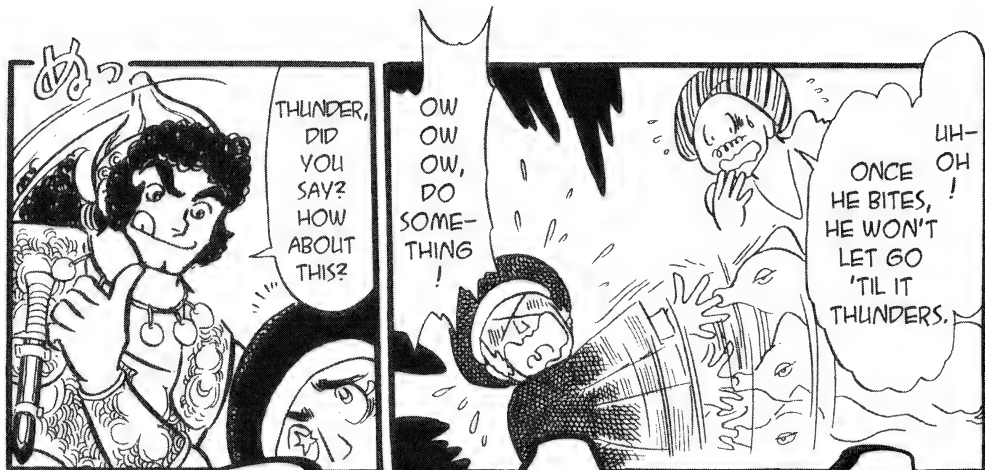


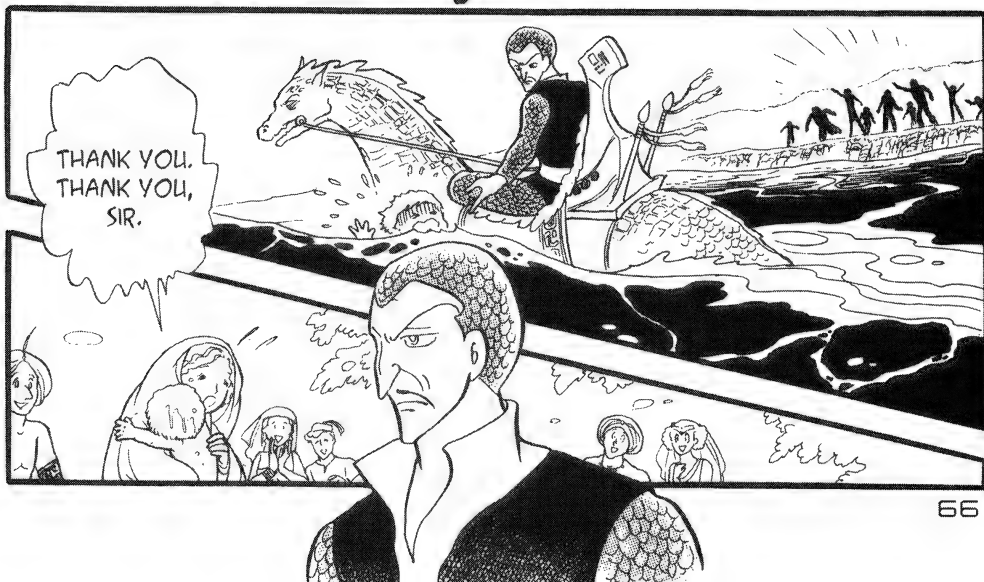


IT'S TAME, WORKED AS LIVESTOCK FOR 50 YEARS. MILD-TEMPERED, SIMPLE DIET, FERTILE.

HOW ABOUT A USED DINOSAUR?

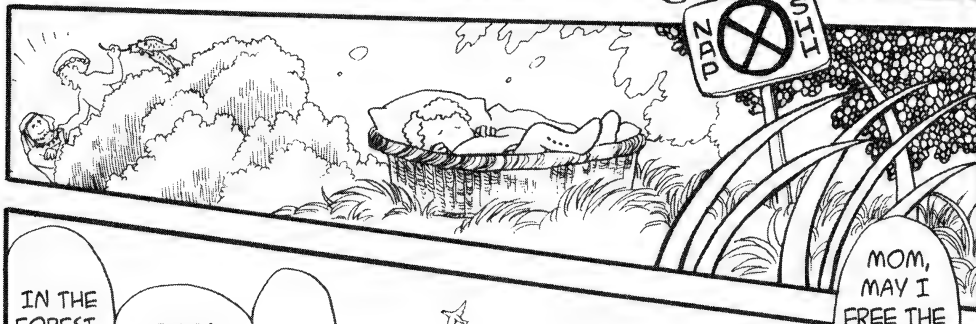
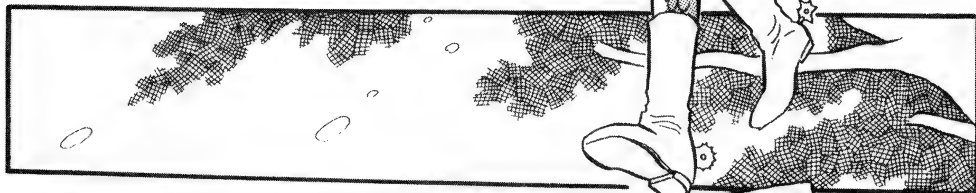






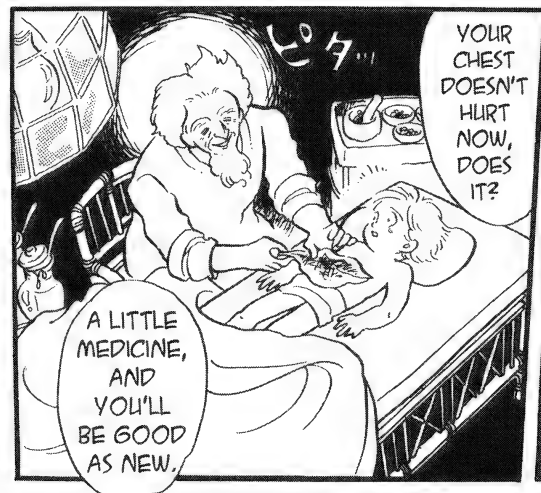
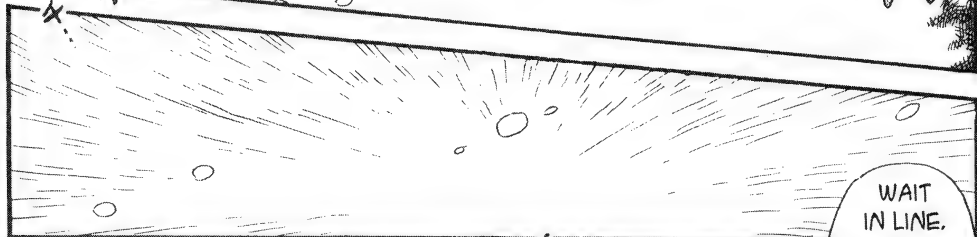


HAIL
GENERAL
VALT!
THE
DRAGON
CAVALRY
! LONG
LIVE



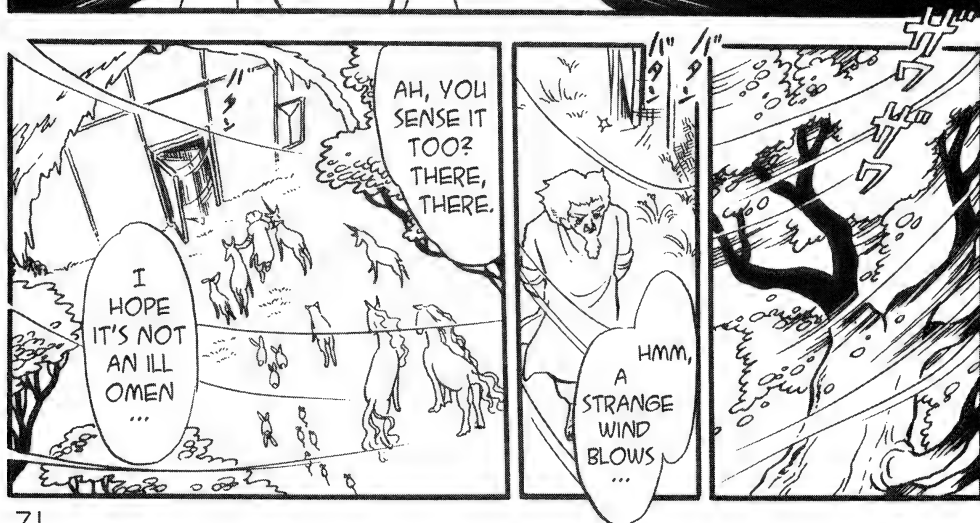
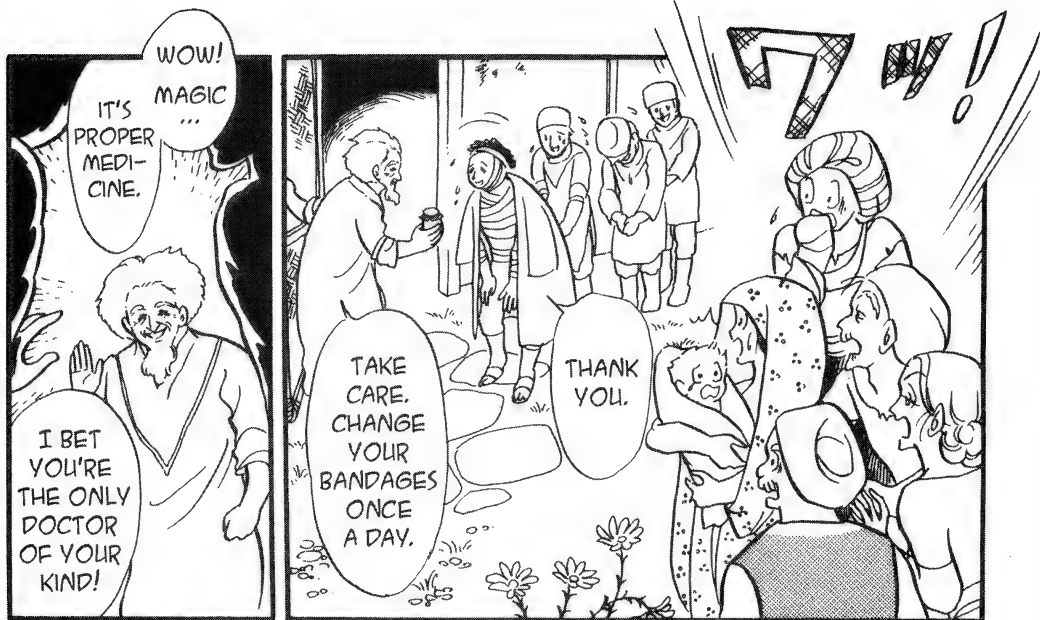
IN THE
FOREST,
MAN AND
BEAST
LIVE
HAPPILY
TOGETHER.
BIRDS
LIKE
THE SKY BEST
AND FISH
LIKE
THE RIVER
BEST.
YES,
DO.

MOM,
MAY I
FREE THE
BIRDS WE
GOT IN
TOWN?







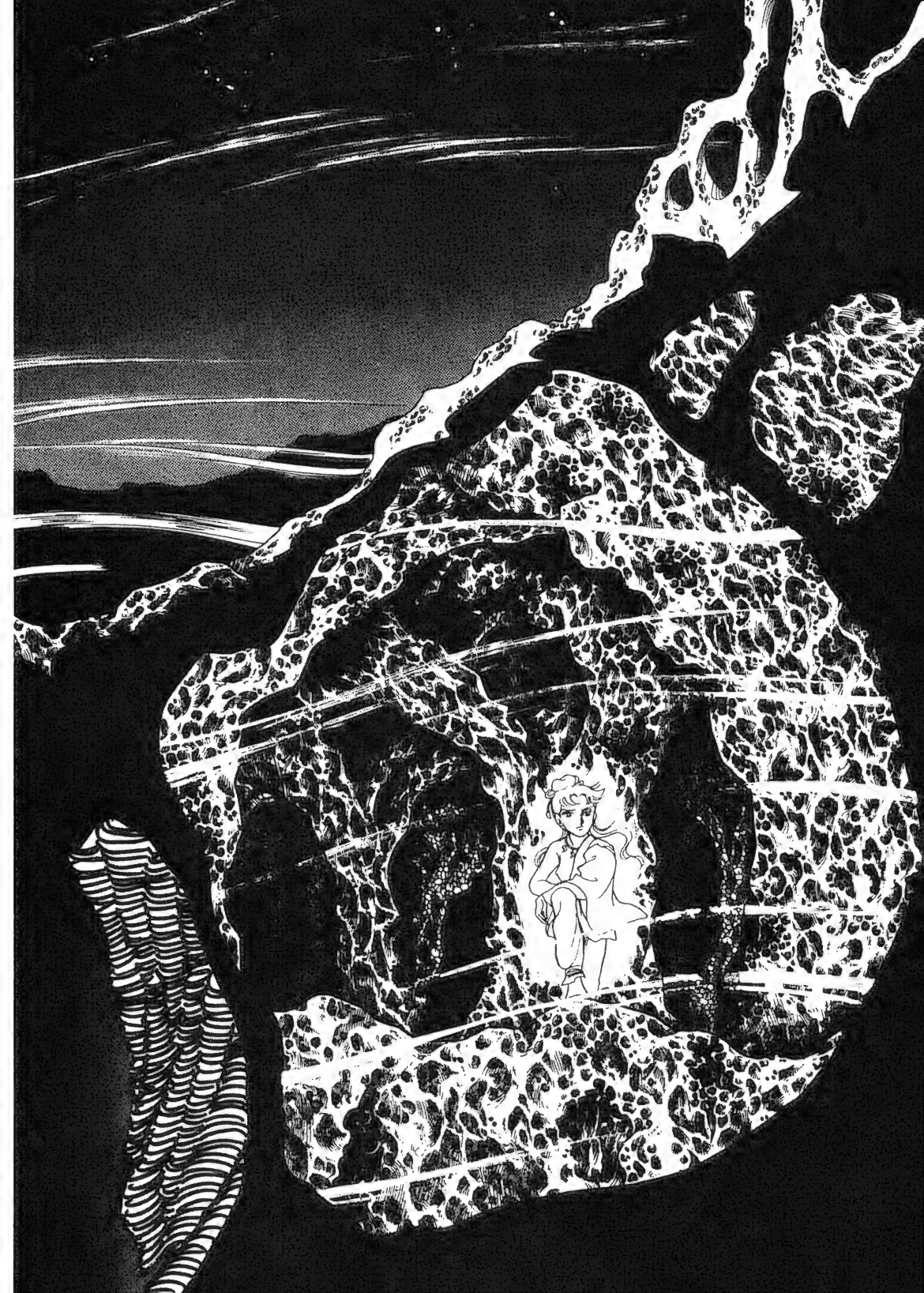




I HAVE A
BAD FEELING.

A PREMONITION?

IF SO,
IT'S IMMINENT.





TO BE
RECALLING
RODLIAN...

I MUST
BE TIRED

THIS ISN'T
A PSYCHOLOGICAL
ATTACK. UH-
UH.





IN THAT
LONG
BATTLE

ALL
CIVILIZATIONS
AND MANY
UNIVERSES
WERE
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED.

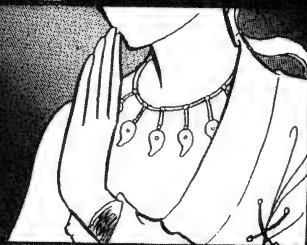
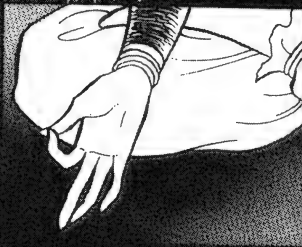
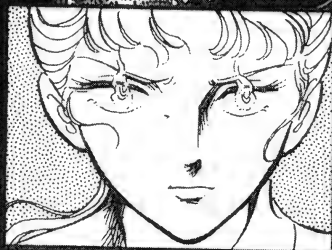


"FIGHT"...

CRY IN
MY CELLS

MEMORIES

OF THOSE
WHO DIED
GALACTIC
AGES AGO

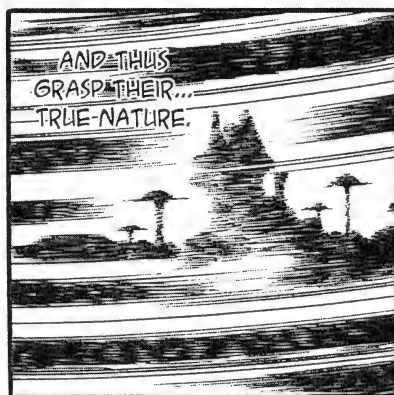
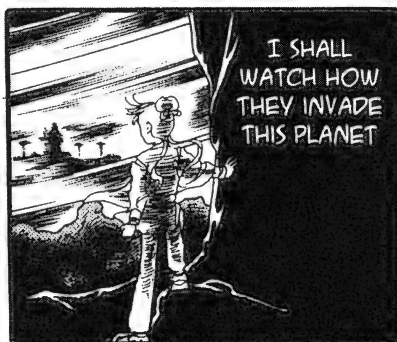
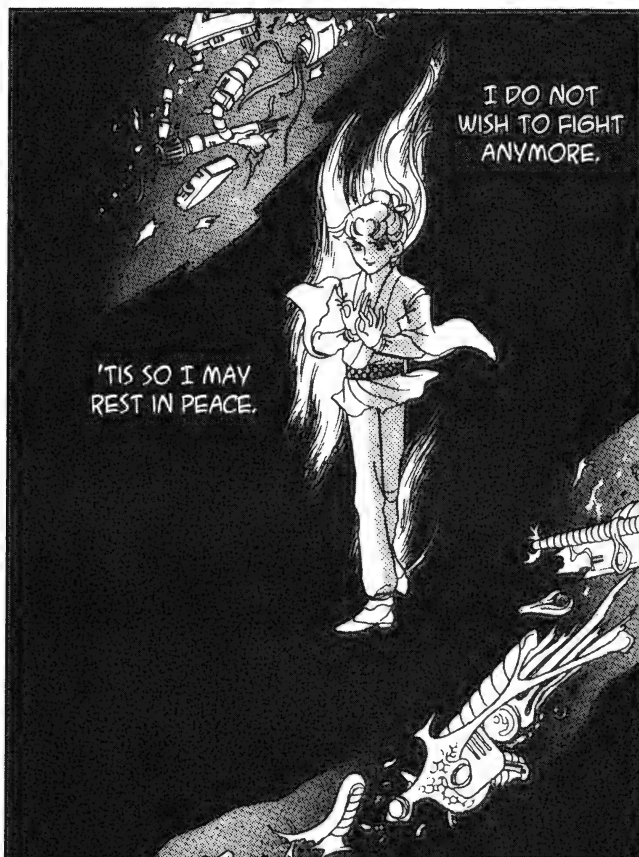
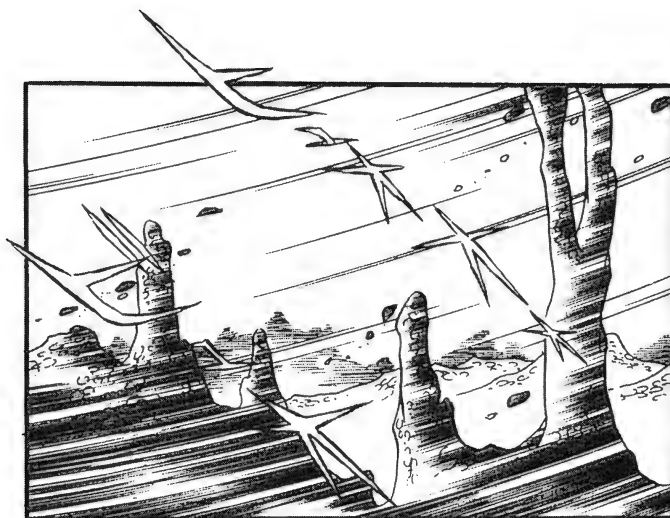


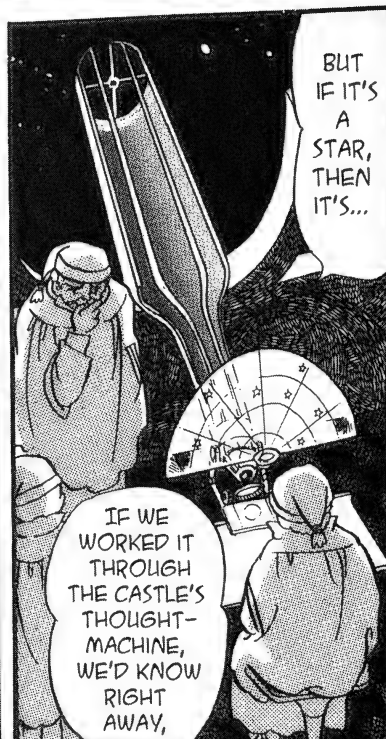
IT VANISHED.

THE FEDERATION
DISPATCHED
ITS VANGUARD
TO THE
LIGHT'S VONDER.



TIME WAS WHEN
ALL THOUGHT
THE FIGHT
WOULD BE EVEN
AGAINST THE ENEMY.





THEY
HAD
NO WAY
OF
KNOWING
WHAT
THIS
FORETOLD.

THE
STAR
WAS
SEEN
NO
MORE
IN THE
SKY.

ODDLY,
AFTER
THAT
NIGHT

IT'S
DAY-
BREAK.
LET'S
GET
GOING!

WHY,
IT'S
STILL
DARK
OUT.

STOP
WIN-
N-G

REAL
CARAVANS
SET OUT
IN THE
DARK!

THE
SUN IS
RISING
AS WE
SPEAK.

NOW
LOOK.

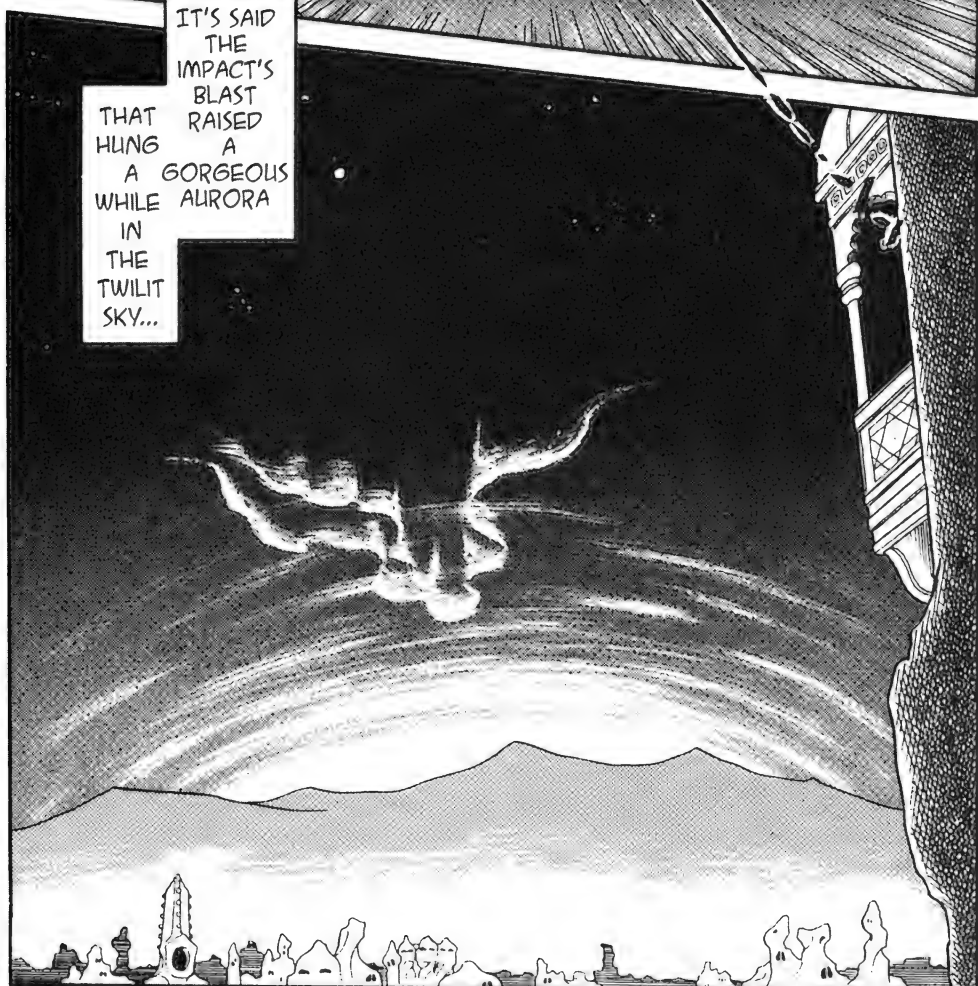
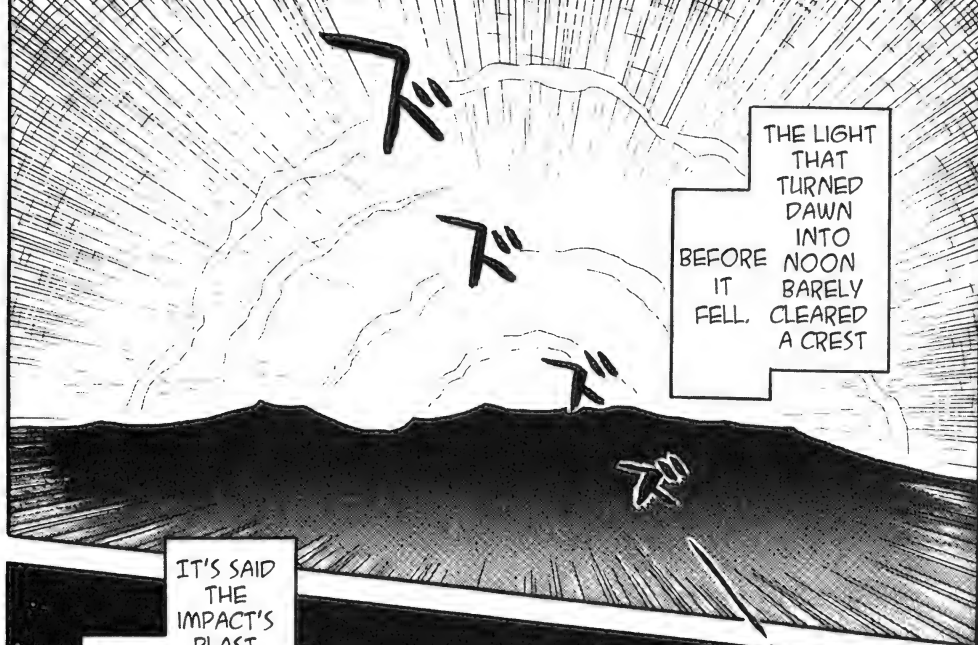
AS...
WE

AHH
!!!



WHA ...

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?!



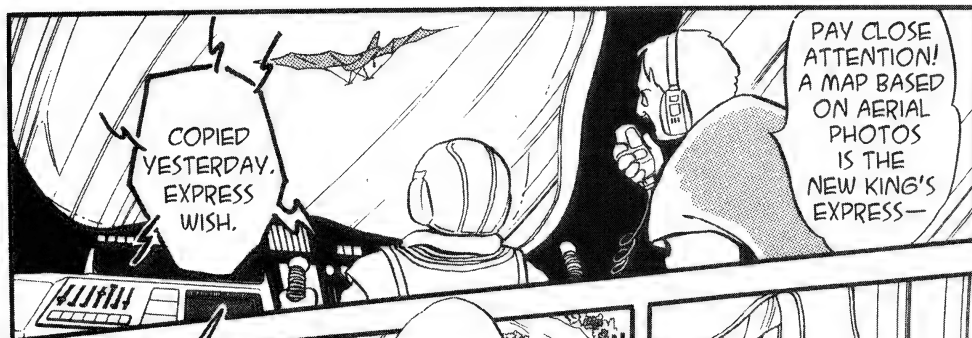


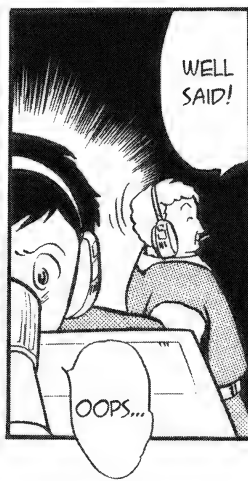
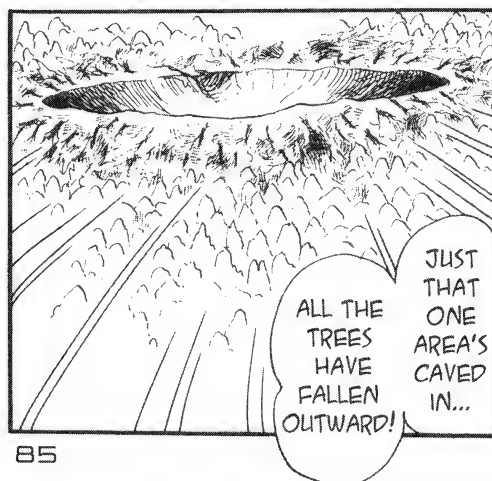
KALA
PLATEAU
CLEARED
WE'RE
CLOSE.

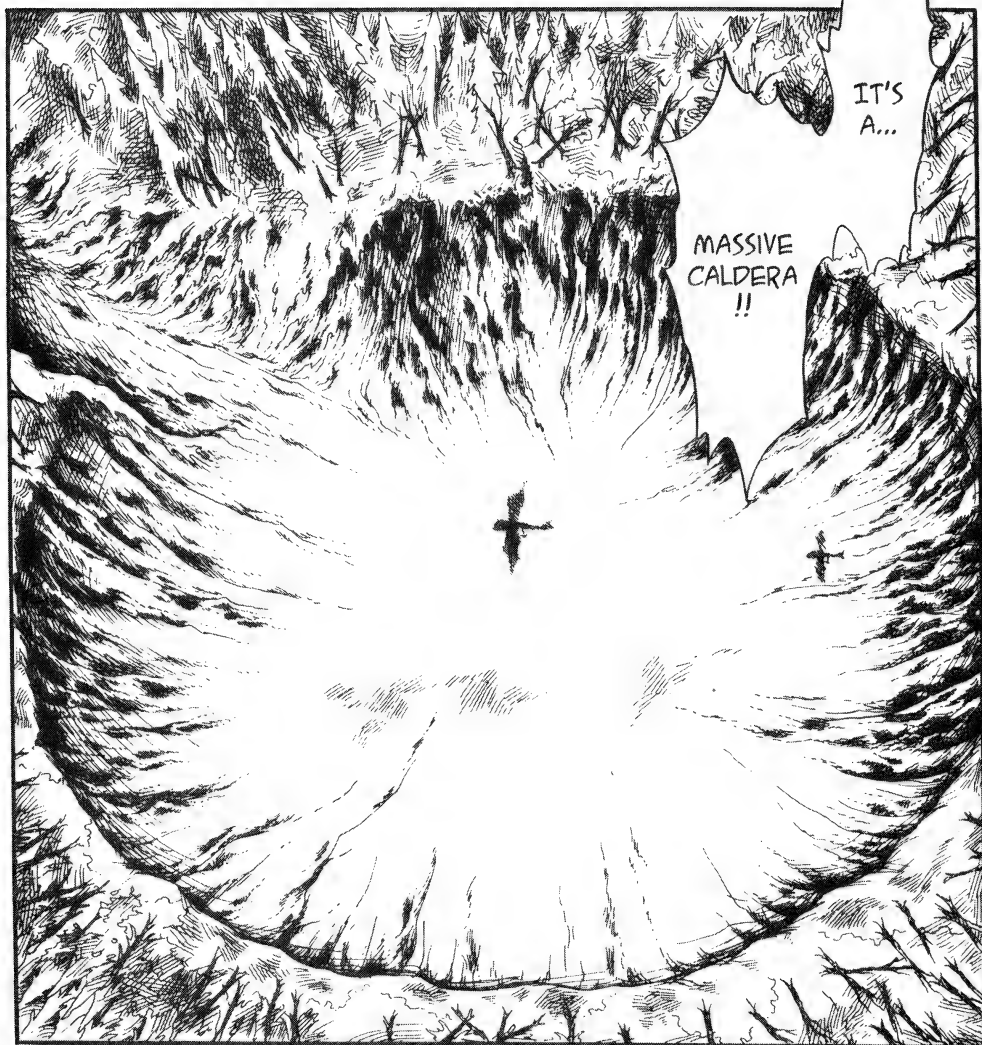
RESUMING
FILMING
FROM
YESTERDAY.
READY
FOR
TRANSMISSION.

THIS IS
SPARROW 2,
HEARING.
ALTITUDE, 500.
THE VIEW'S
GREAT!

SPARROW 1
OF THE
SURVEY
BUREAU
CALLING
SPARROW 2.

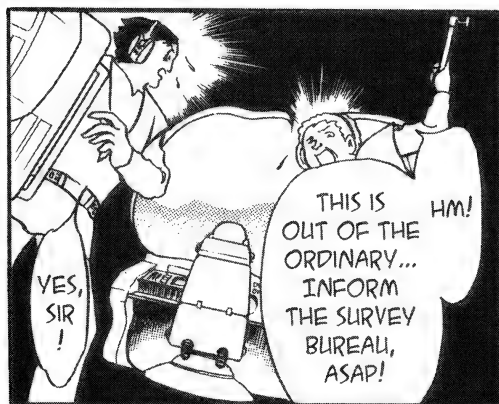






IT'S
A...

MASSIVE
CALDERA
!!



YES,
SIR!

HM!
THIS IS
OUT OF THE
ORDINARY...
INFORM
THE SURVEY
BUREAU,
ASAP!



MUST BE!
THAT SHOOT-
ING STAR THE
OTHER DAY
FELL ON
THIS SIDE
OF THE
MOUNTAIN.

WAIT.
THERE'S
NO
VOLCANO
AROUND
HERE
!

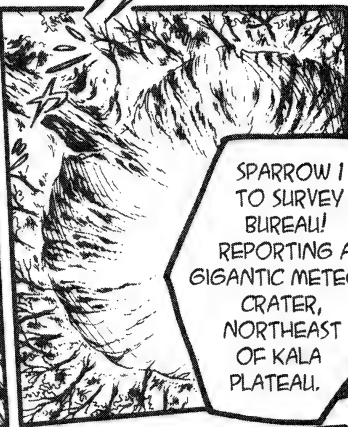
THEN
A
METE-
ORITE
?



SOMETHING
HOT THAT
MELTED
THE ROCK
AS WELL.



SIGNS OF
SOMETHING
DRAGGING
THROUGH
THE TREES—



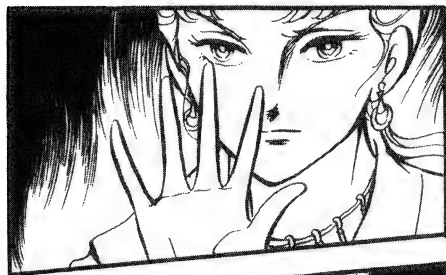
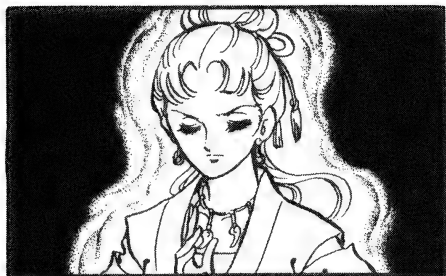
SPARROW I
TO SURVEY
BUREAU!
REPORTING A
GIGANTIC METEOR
CRATER,
NORTHEAST
OF KALA
PLATEAU.

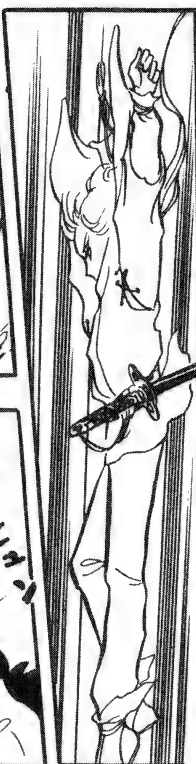


URGENT,
REQUEST INVESTI-
GATION.
THE
EXACT
LOCATION
IS—

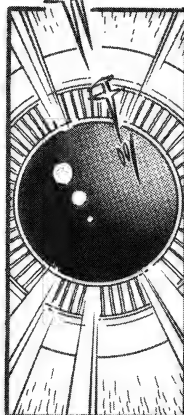
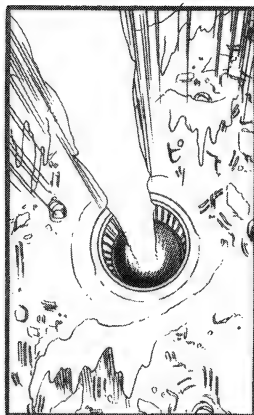
THE
TRACE LEADS
INTO THE
WOODS.
SOURCE INVIS-
IBLE FROM
UP HERE.



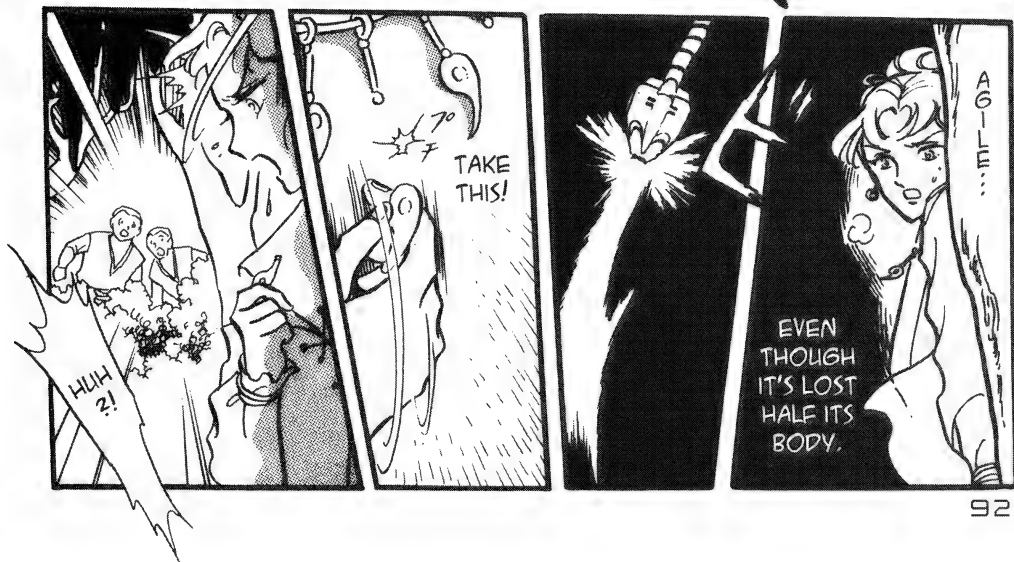
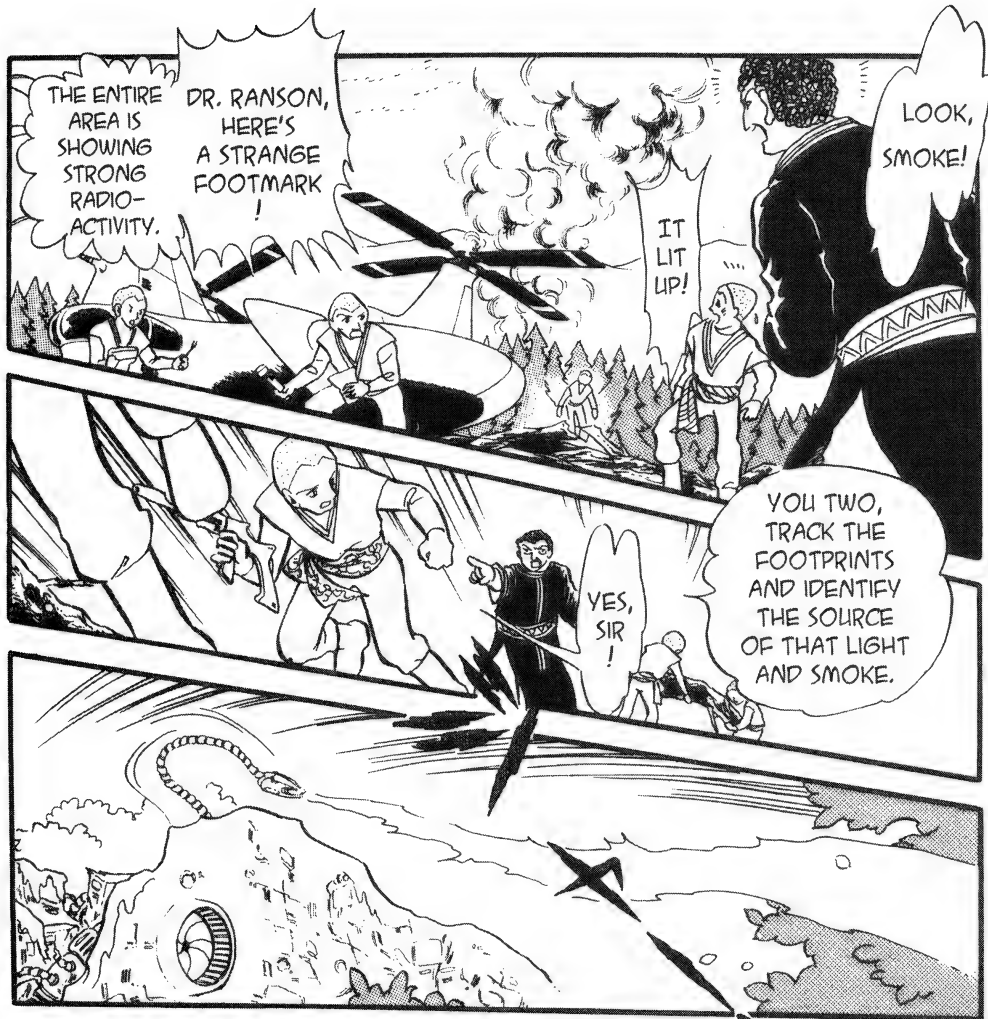


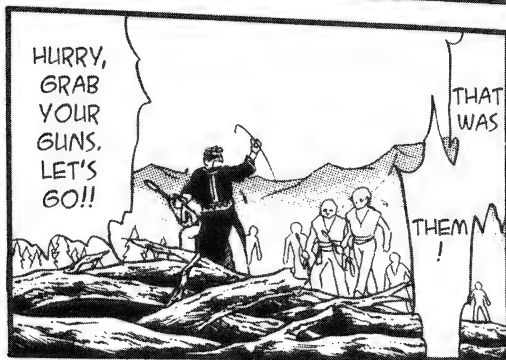


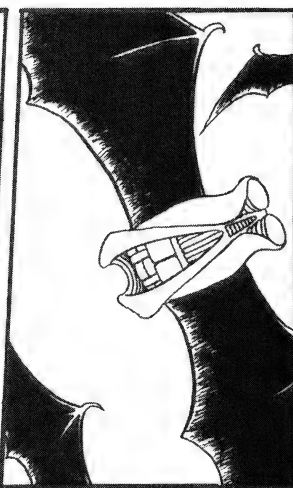


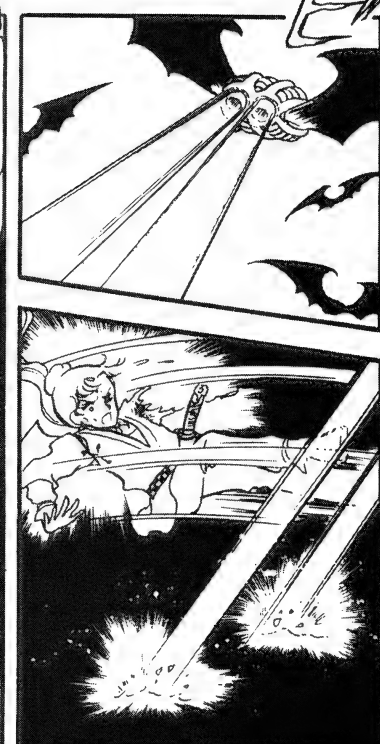


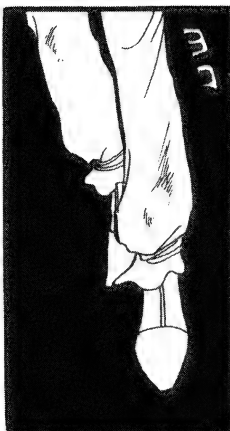
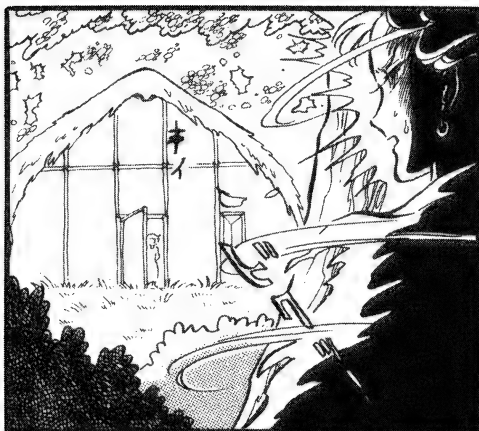
ONE
MORE
BLAST
!

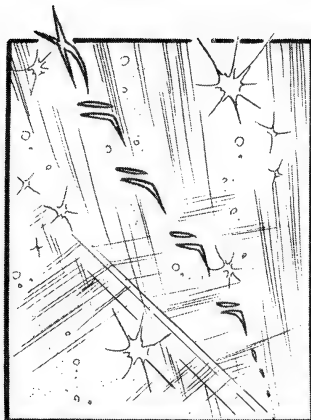














TARAMA!

THE TOP
LUSTER, AND
QUALITY—IT WAS
EVEN SAID TO BE
FRAGRANT.
NEVER ENOUGH
TO GO AROUND.

THE
CLOTH
SHE
WEAVES
FETCHES
THE
HIGHEST
PRICES
BACK
HOME.

KING,
YOU
ARE
TRULY
FORTU-
NATE.



HUH?

AND,
MY PRINCESS,
FOR WHOM
DO YOU
WEAVE
THIS?

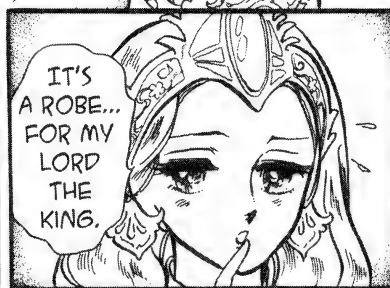


MY
LORD!

BUT I
VOUCH YOU
THE LAND'S
PEACE
AND
PROSPERITY.

I
KNOW
NOT
HOW TO
MAKE
SUCH A
GIFT,

L
I
L
I
A



IT'S
A ROBE...
FOR MY
LORD
THE
KING.



I
PROMISED
MYSELF
IT WOULD
BE THE
FIRST
THING
I'D WEAVE
HERE.

A CHILD WITH
DARK EYES AND
FIERY RED HAIR
WOULD PROVE
OUR COUNTRIES'
BOND!

LILIA,
IT
WOULD
NOT
MATTER
...

LADIES
!

ALL
THAT'S
LEFT IS
TO WAIT
FOR THE
BIRTH
OF AN
HEIR.

OR
AYODOYA'S
RED?!

THAT'S
ALL WE
TALK
ABOUT.

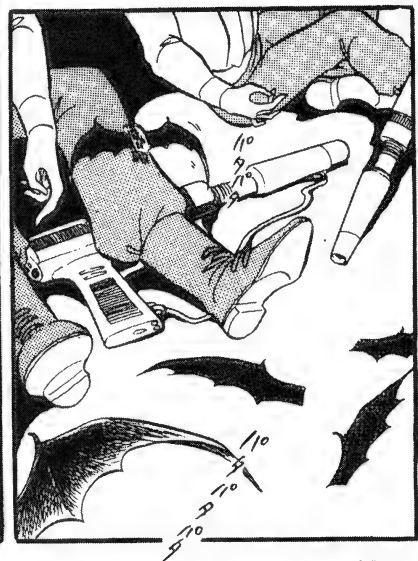
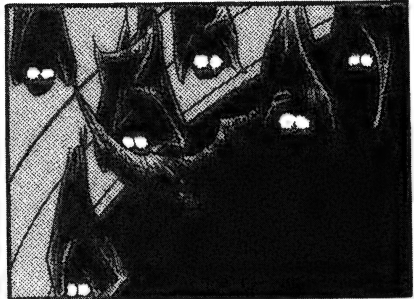
WILL
THE
CHILD
HAVE
COSMO-
RALIA'S
DARK
HAIR

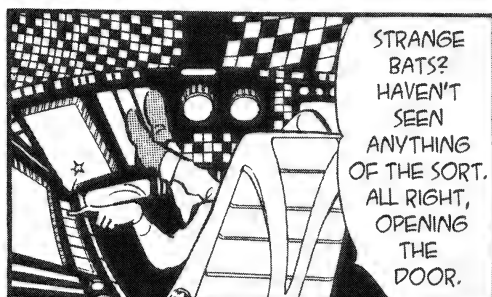
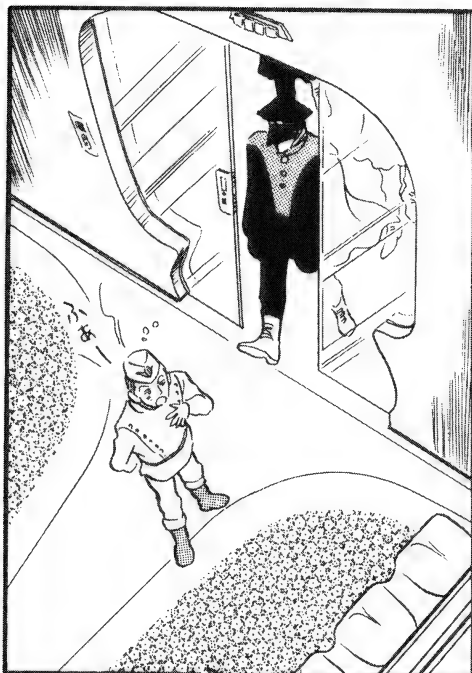
WAIT...
HOW
ODD!
THEY'RE
ALL
FLYING
INTO THE
WINDOW.

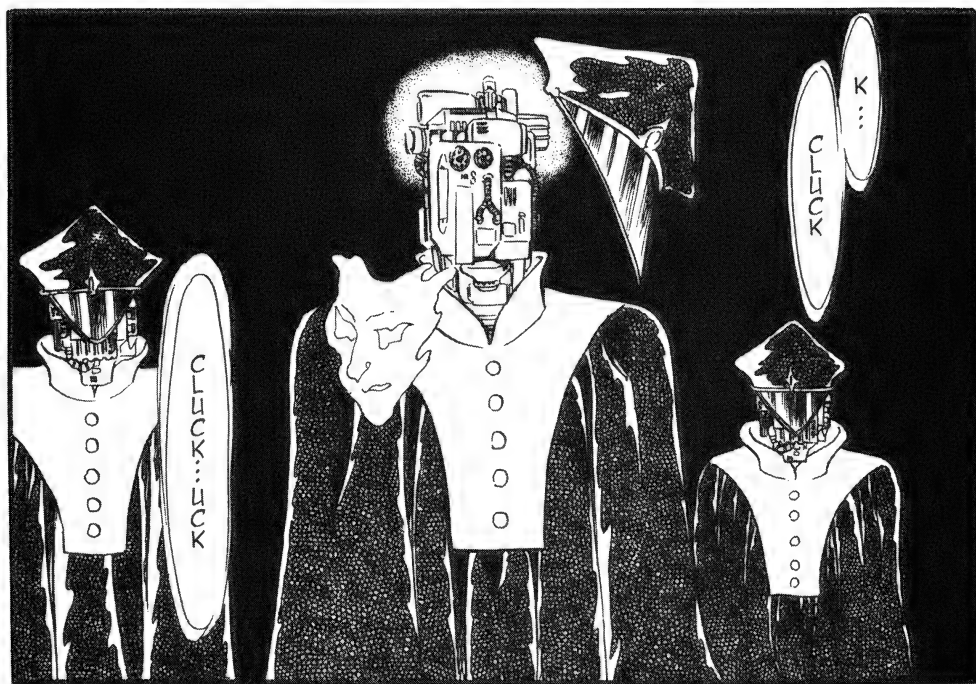
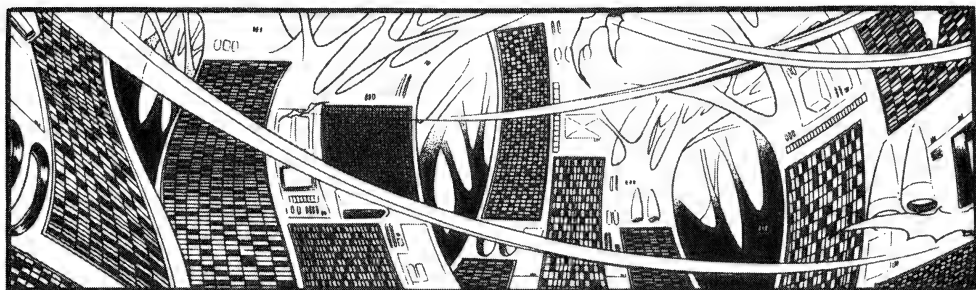
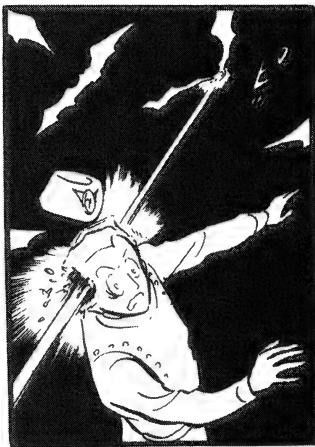
A LOT
OF
BATS
TODAY...

WE'RE
ALMOST
DONE FOR
THE DAY.
SQUARE'S
EMPTY,
TOO.

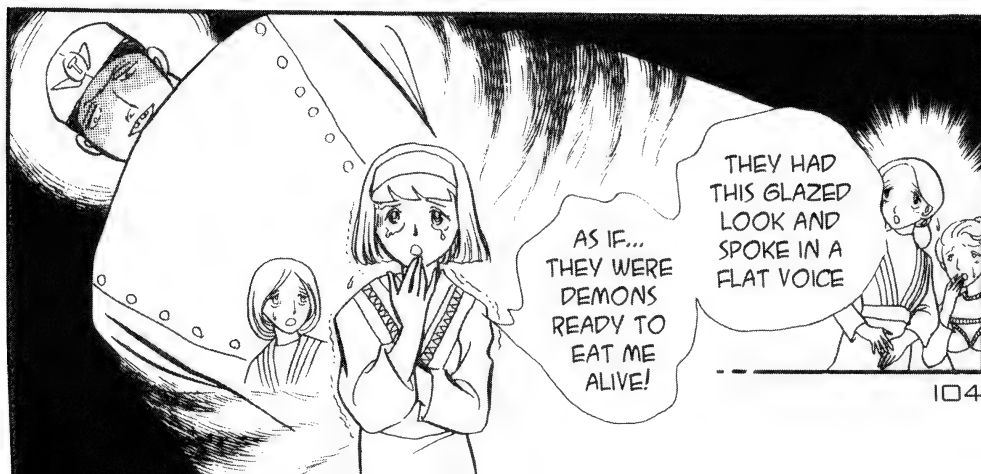
STRETCH













GE...

STAY
AWAY.

GET
OUT.

STAY
AWAY.

GET
OUT.

ST...

HUSH
NOW!

THE
QUEEN
CAN HEAR
YOU!!

YES.

Y...



STILL...
HOW
EERIE
...

PARDON
THEM,
MY
QUEEN.

WHEN
PEOPLE
NEED
TO TALK,
THEY WILL.

LET
IT
BE.



WHY,
AS
LOVEY-
DOVEY
AS
EVER!

BUT
WORDS
ARE FREE,
AREN'T
THEY.



THE
TECHNI-
CIANS
?

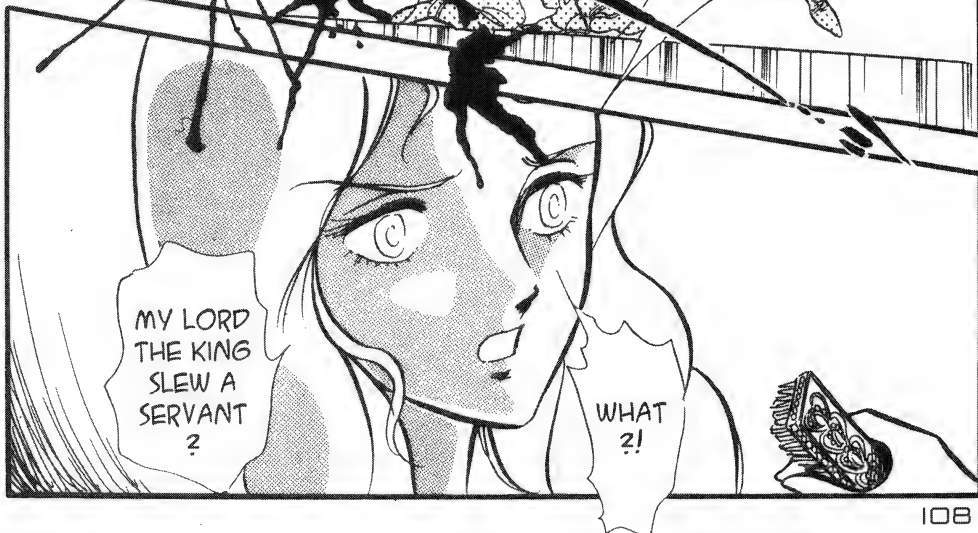
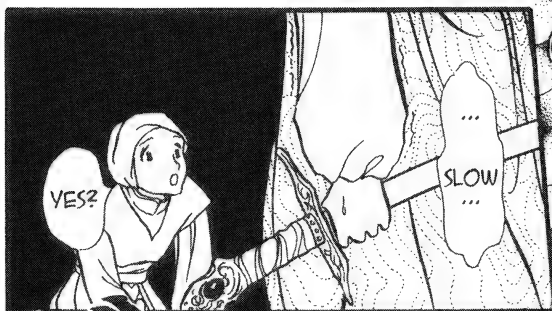
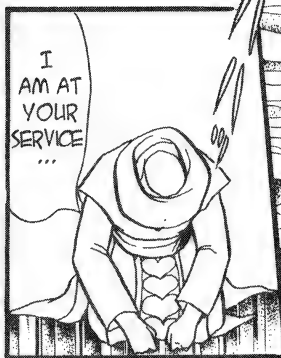
HM
?

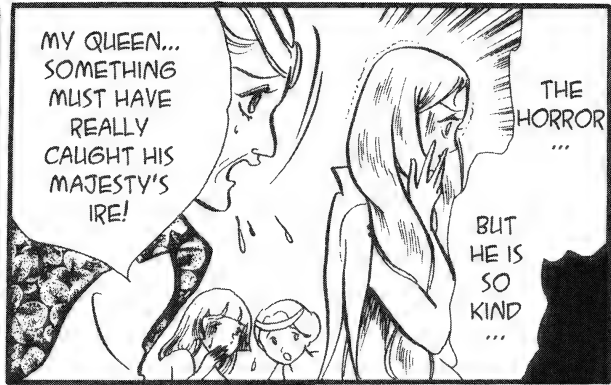


NOT TO
WORRY,
LILIA. I'LL
HAVE
THEM
LOOK
INTO IT

SO
NOT ONE
THING
IN THIS
LAND CAN
VEX YOU
!







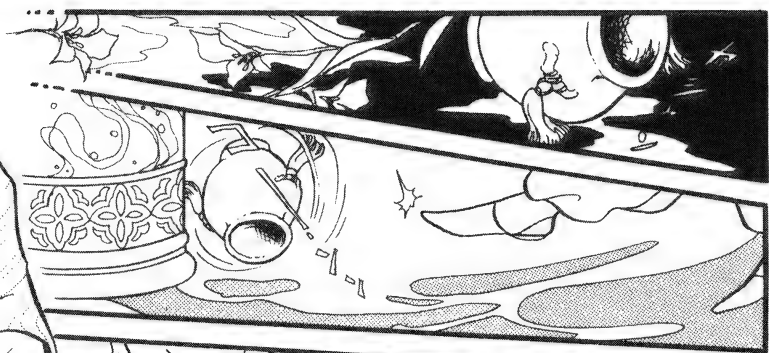
MY QUEEN...
SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
REALLY
CAUGHT HIS
MAJESTY'S
IRE!

THE
HORROR
...

BUT
HE IS
SO
KIND
...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
?



THERE,
I HAVE
FINISHED
YOUR
ROBE
...



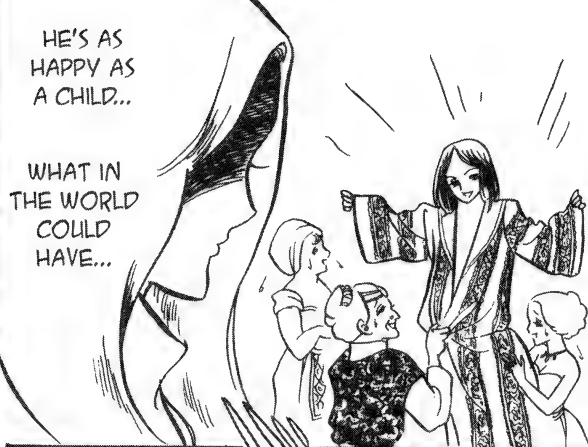
IT'S
GOOD
OF YOU
TO
COME.

NOTHING

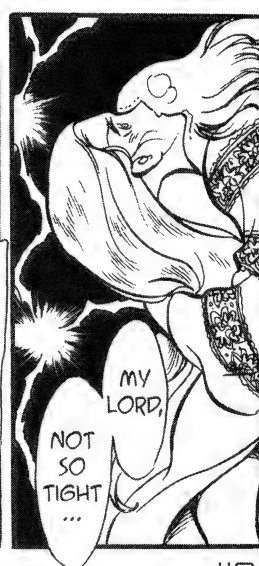
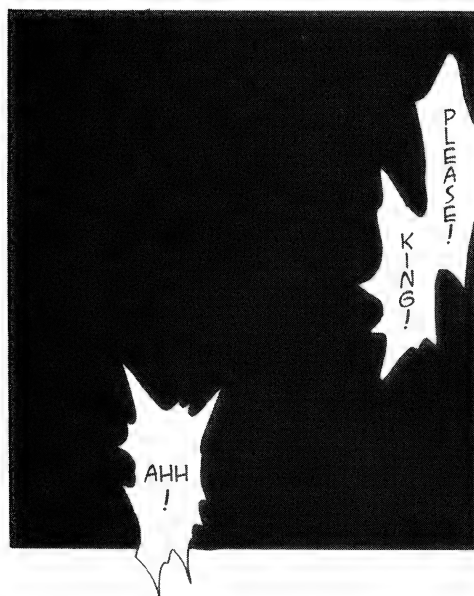


HE'S AS
HAPPY AS
A CHILD...

WHAT IN
THE WORLD
COULD
HAVE...



LILIA!







IT'S NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM ME THIS LONG.

THAT'S ODD.



IT'S BEEN GONE FOR 3 DAYS. YOU THERE, HAVE YOU SEEN THE CAT?

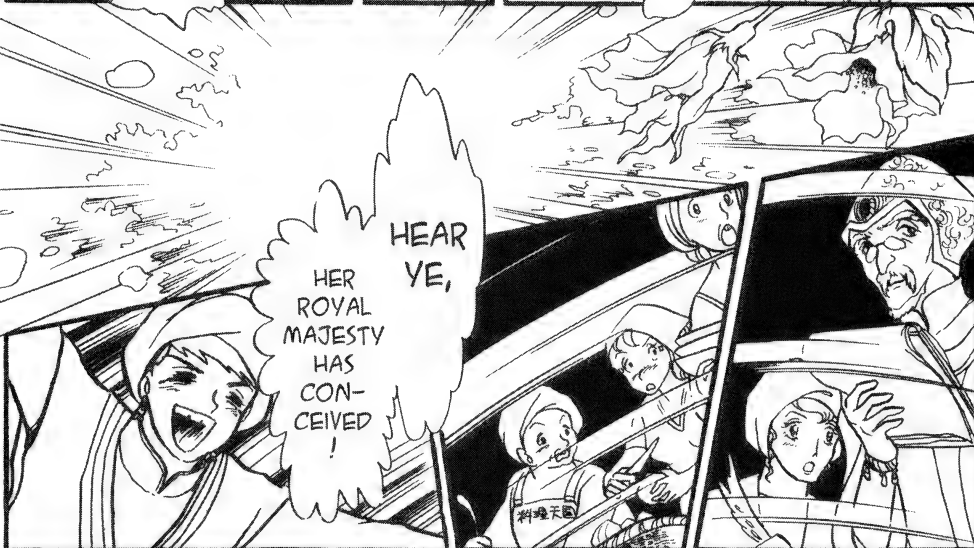
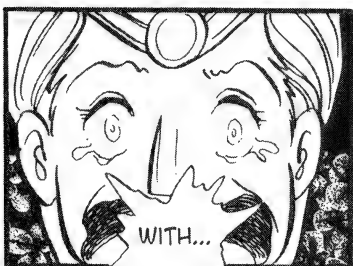
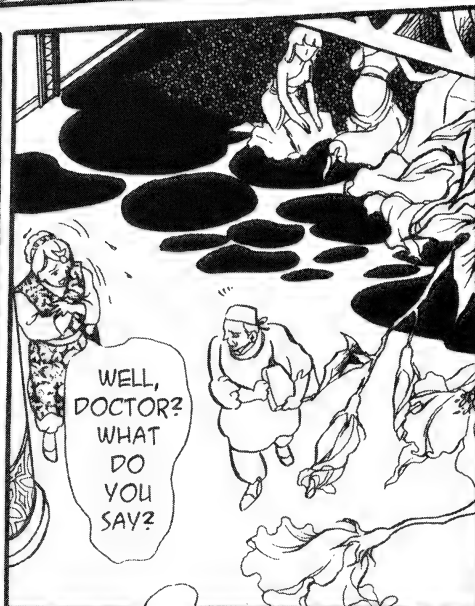
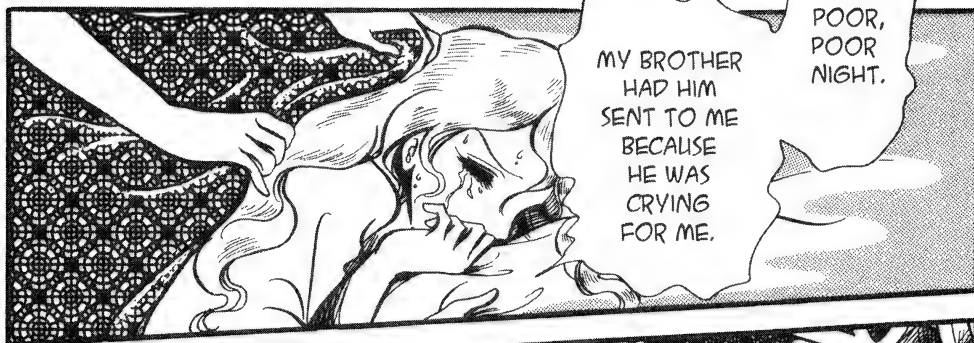


WHERE ARE YOU?

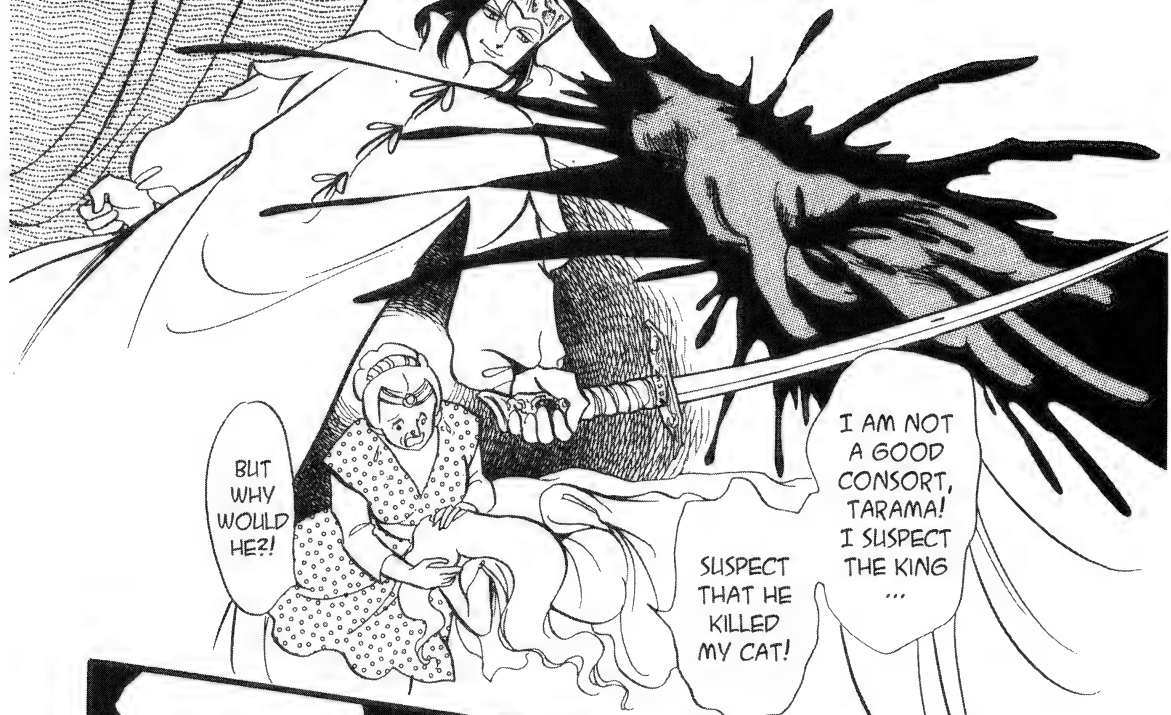


QUEEN! PRINCESS LILIA!!









BUT WHY WOULD HE?!

SUSPECT THAT HE
KILLED
MY CAT!

I AM NOT
A GOOD
CONSORT,
TARAMA!
I SUSPECT
THE KING
...

HIS ARMS THAT
HELD ME FELT...
LIKE A MACHINE!!

OH!

I WISH
I AGREED.
BUT HE'S
BEEN
ACTING SO
STRANGE
LATELY.



I'LL
ARRANGE
A VISIT.
HE CAN
COME TO
CELEBRATE
YOUR
CONCEPTION.

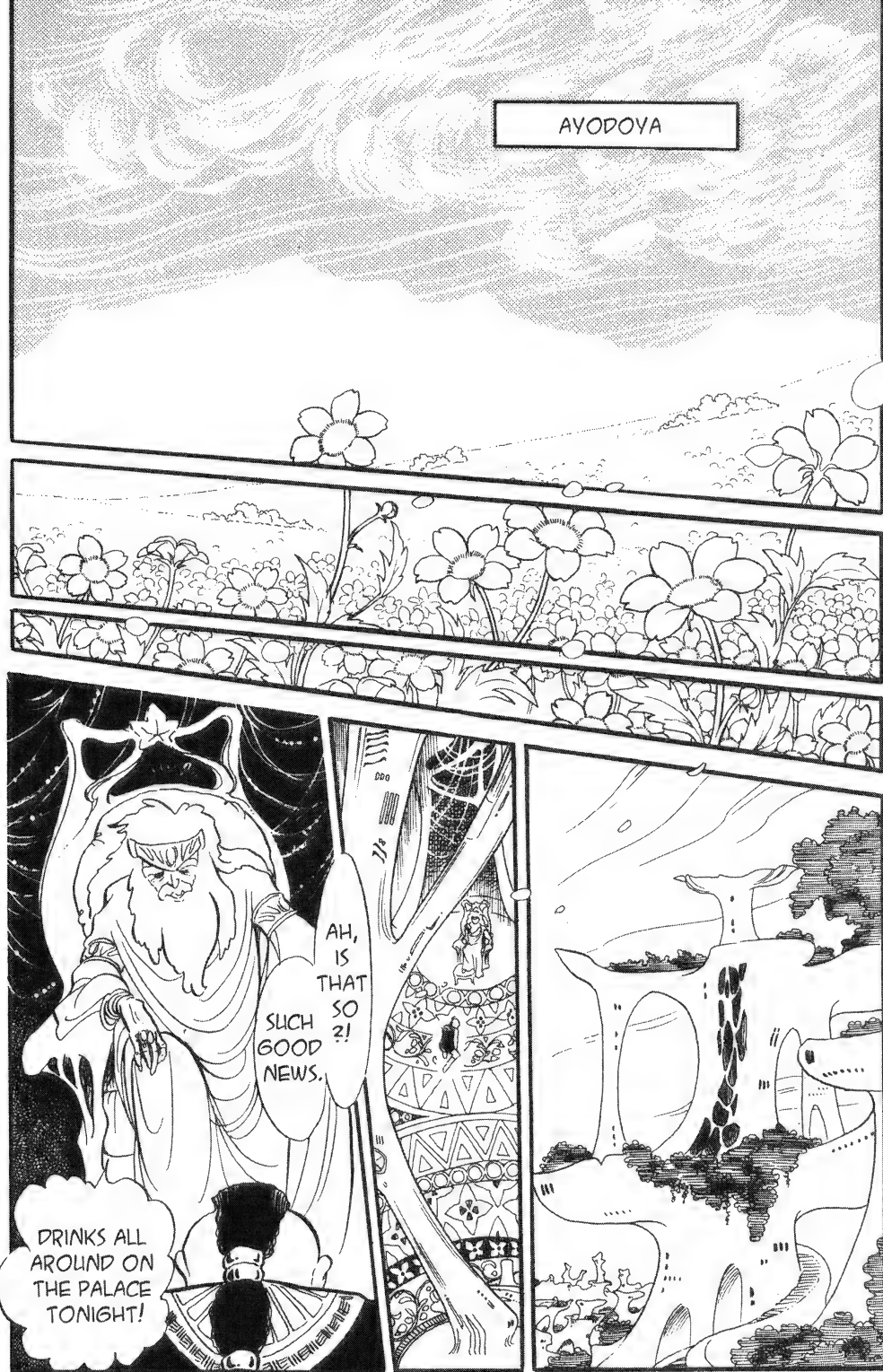
ALL
RIGHT
THEN.



NO!
THAT WILL
ONLY
MAKE
MATTERS
WORSE
!

HEAR
ME
THIS
ONCE,
AND
SEND
FOR MY
BROTHER.
I COULD
ONLY
EVER
TRUST
HIM!

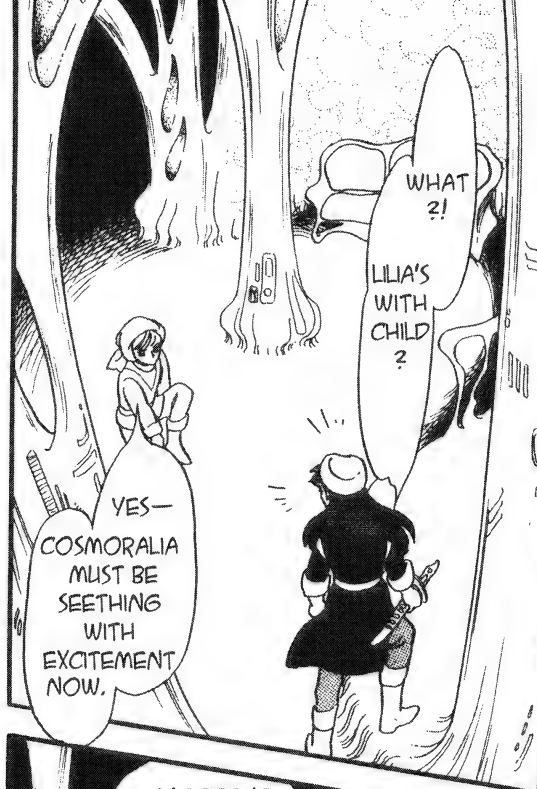
AYODOYA



AH,
IS
THAT
SO
?!

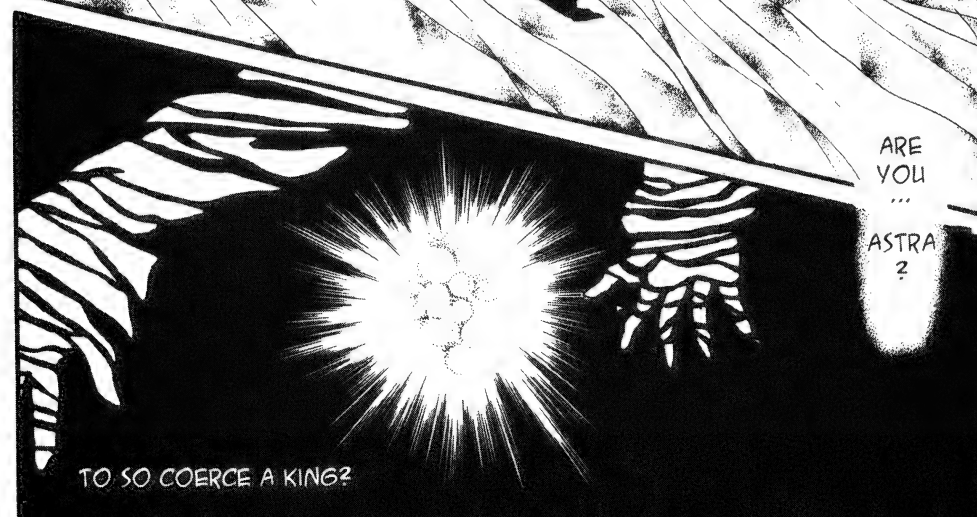
SUCH
GOOD
NEWS.

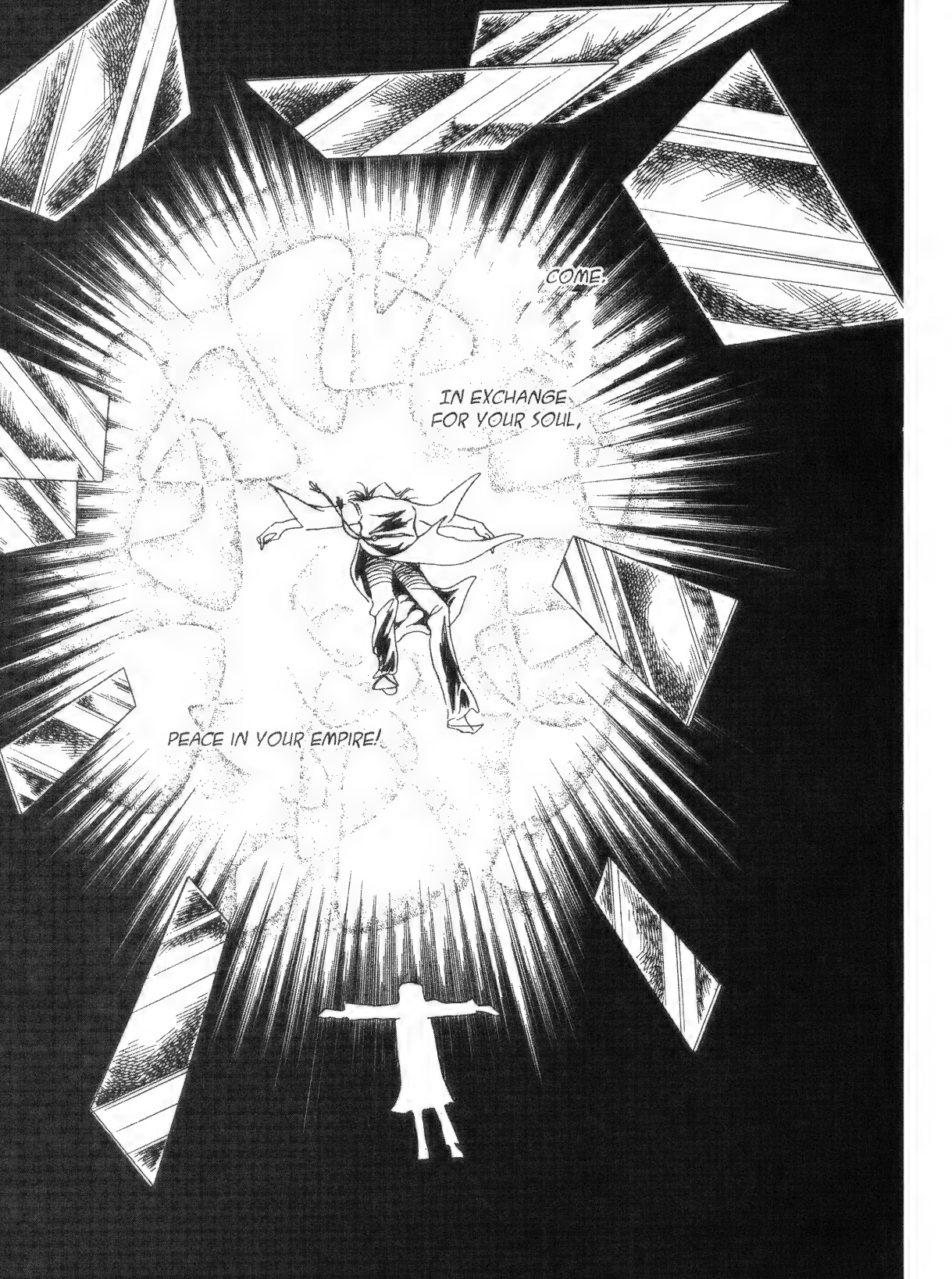
DRINKS ALL
AROUND ON
THE PALACE
TONIGHT!



AND THIS IS A LETTER FROM NURSE TARAMA.



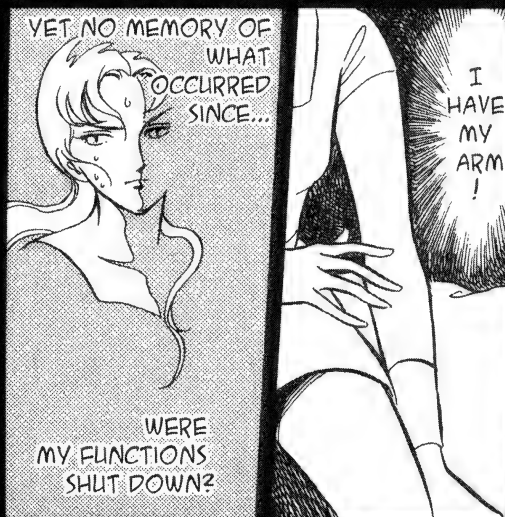


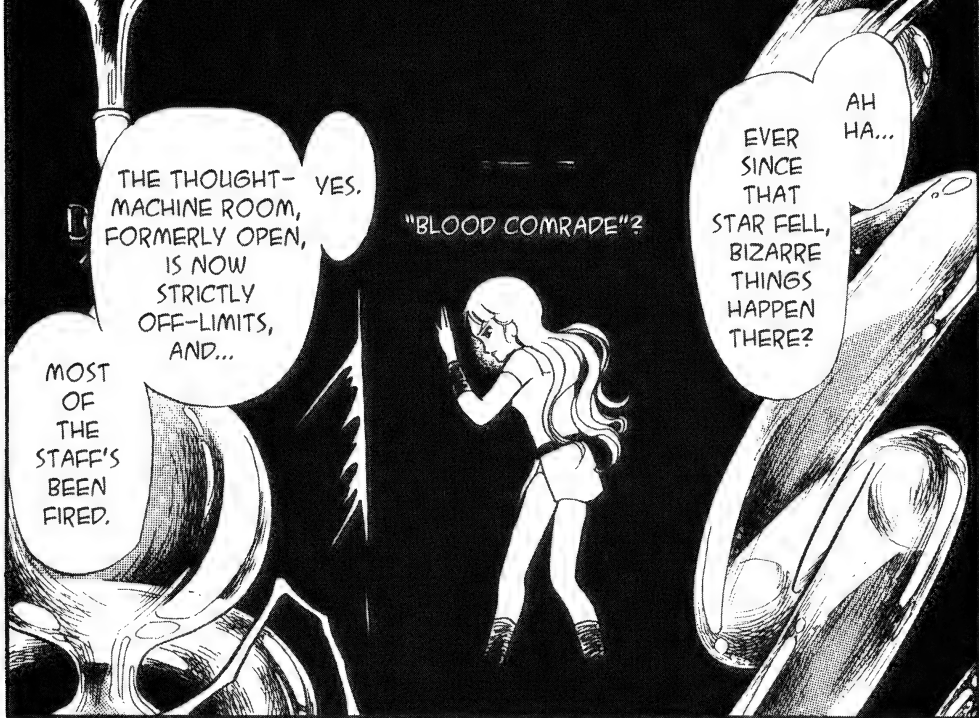


COME.

IN EXCHANGE
FOR YOUR SOUL,

PEACE IN YOUR EMPIRE!





THE THOUGHT-
MACHINE ROOM,
FORMERLY OPEN,
IS NOW
STRICTLY
OFF-LIMITS,
AND...

YES.

MOST
OF
THE
STAFF'S
BEEN
FIRED.

"BLOOD COMRADE"?

EVER
SINCE
THAT
STAR FELL,
BIZARRE
THINGS
HAPPEN
THERE?

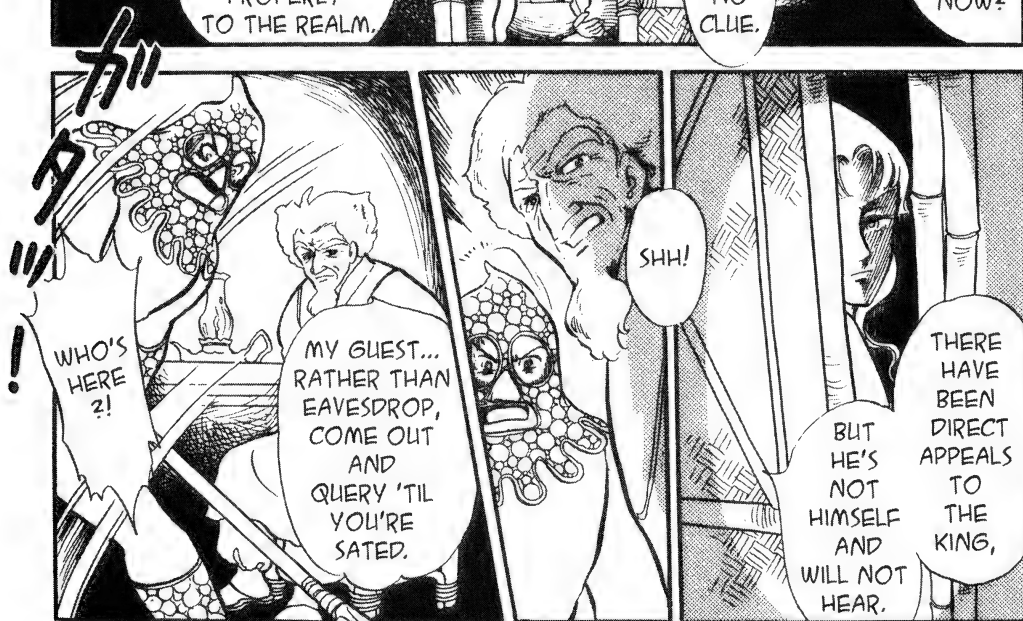
AH
HA...



BUT THE FACT
IS WATER AND
ELECTRICITY
AREN'T BEING
SUPPLIED
PROPERLY
TO THE REALM.

I
HAVE
NO
CLUE.

THEN
WHO
RUNS
THE
THING
NOW?



WHO'S
HERE
?!

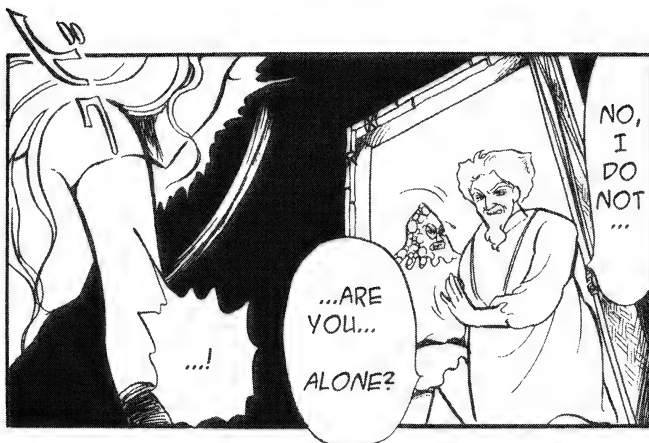
MY GUEST...
RATHER THAN
EAVESDROP,
COME OUT
AND
QUERY 'TIL
YOU'RE
SATED.

SHH!

BUT
HE'S
NOT
HIMSELF
AND
WILL NOT
HEAR.

THERE
HAVE
BEEN
DIRECT
APPEALS
TO THE
KING,

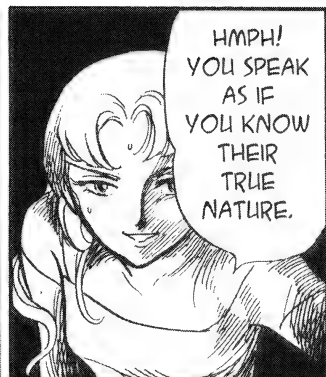




NO,
I
DO
NOT
...

...ARE
YOU...
ALONE?

...!



HMPH!
YOU SPEAK
AS IF
YOU KNOW
THEIR
TRUE
NATURE.



YOU
CAN'T
FIGHT
ALONE.

IT'D
BE
FUTILE,
ESPECIALLY
WITH A
BODY
LIKE
YOURS.

I DON'T
OWE
YOU
WORDS.
I'M
NOT
OF
THIS
PLACE

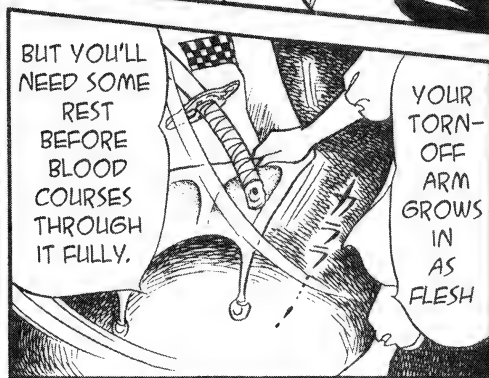
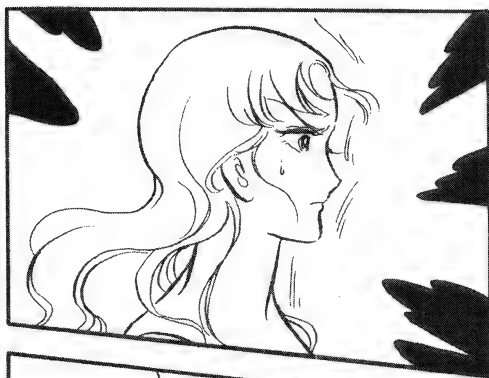
AND
THE
ENEMY
IS MY
ONLY
INTEREST.
SORRY.



YOU'RE...
A GOOD
DOCTOR.
THERE
SHOULD
BE
NO
NEED.

I'D
LIKE
TO
LEAVE
HERE
SOON.

IS
THAT
SO...



BUT YOU'LL
NEED SOME
REST
BEFORE
BLOOD
COURSES
THROUGH
IT FULLY.

YOUR
TORN-OFF
ARM
GROWS
IN
AS
FLESH



THE
WRAP
IS
MADE
OF
LEAD!
!

TOO BAD
WE CAN'T
TOUCH THIS
DIRECTLY—
NOT US.

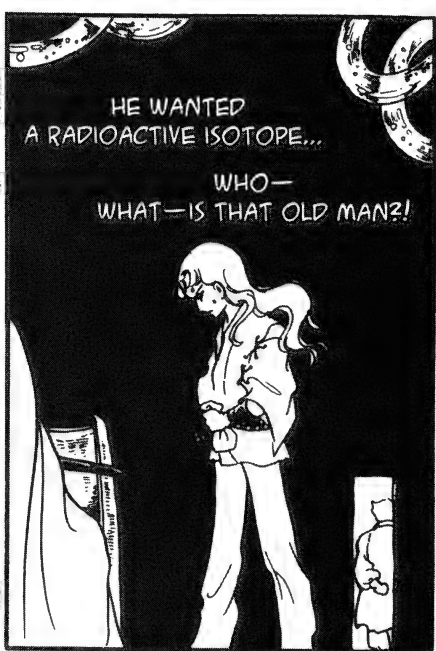


THEN AS
PAYMENT
FOR YOUR
TREATMENT,
I'D LIKE A
PIECE OF
WHAT'S IN
YOUR
WAIST
POUCH.



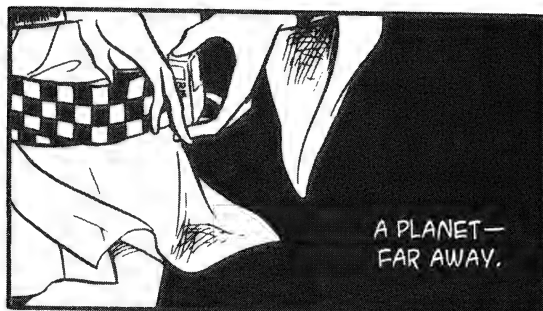
HE CAME
FROM
ANOTHER
PLANET—

I SHAN'T PRY.
PERHAPS,
LIKE ME,

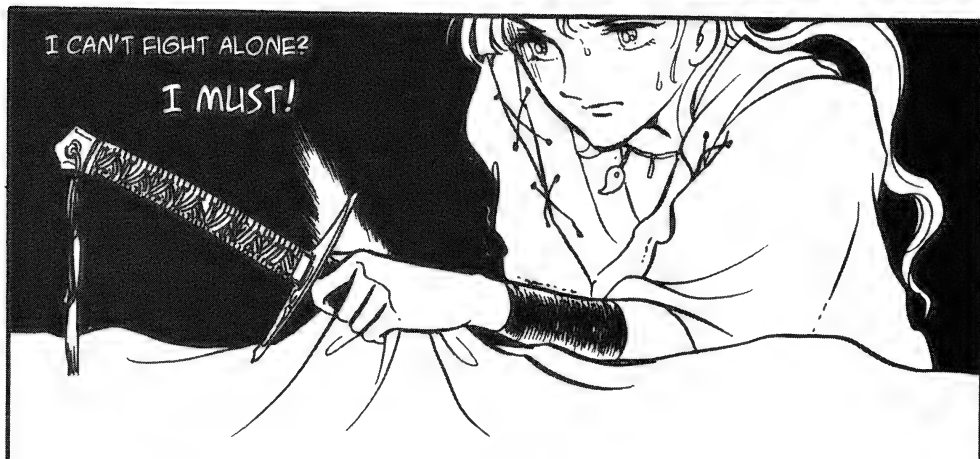


HE WANTED
A RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE...

WHO—
WHAT—IS THAT OLD MAN?!



A PLANET—
FAR AWAY.



I CAN'T FIGHT ALONE?

I MUST!

WHETHER
OR NOT IT'S POSSIBLE.

ALAS, THEY'VE REACHED
THIS PLANET ASTRIAS
MUCH SOONER THAN US...

OUR FORCES ARE STILL FAR OFF.

IF I DO NOT FIGHT,
THEY CONQUER.

THEN
WHATEVER THE COST...!

FOR
ALLIES
WHO
MAY
NEVER
COME?

YES
...

ONLY THAT
BEAUTIFUL
QUEEN,
AND
THE PRINCE
TO BE
BORN...

ONLY
THE
ROYAL
BLOOD
OF

AYODOYA
CAN
HALT
THEM

PRINCE
TO BE
BORN!

TIME

PROTECT

IS
HE A
TELEPATH
?

I
CAN'T
MOVE!

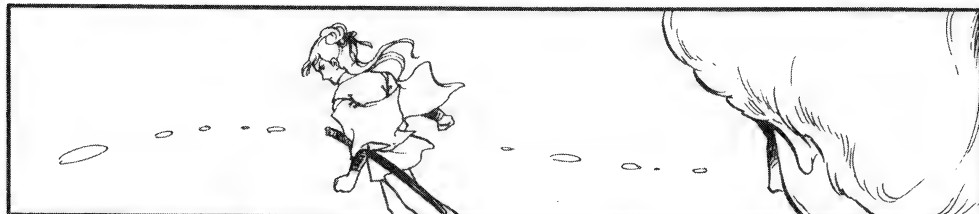
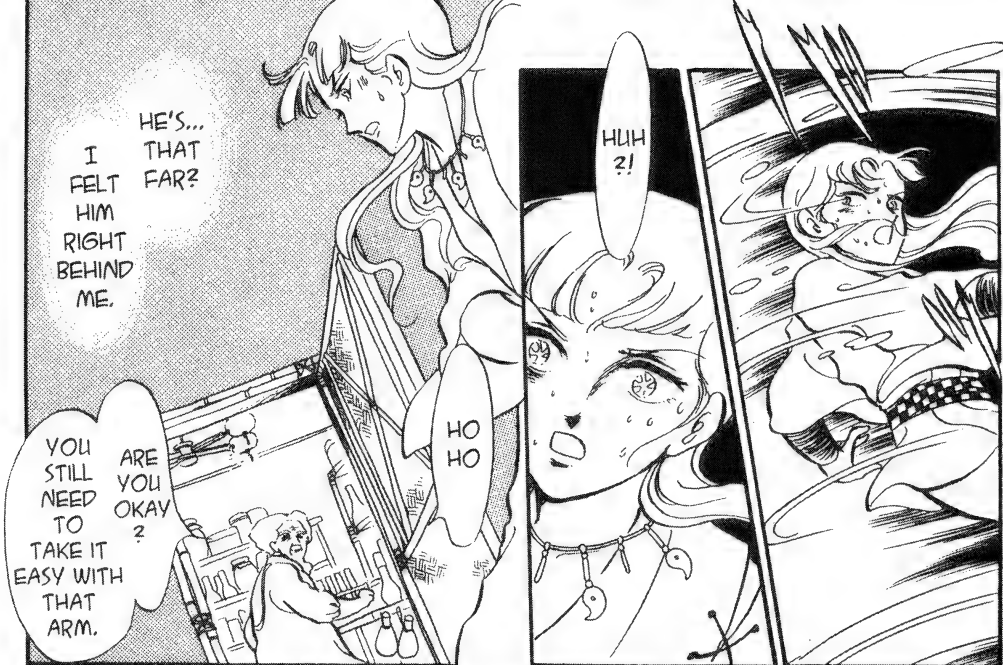
WE NEED
YOUR HELP.

STOP
IT!

YOU'LL
FIND
OUR
KNOW-
LEDGE
USEFUL.

AS
OUR
ALLY
...





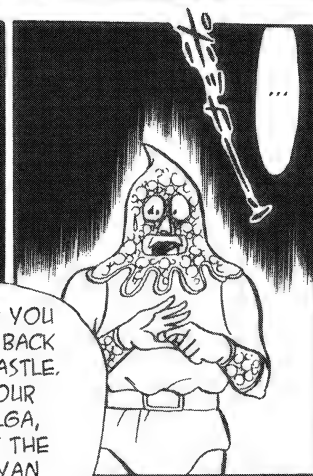
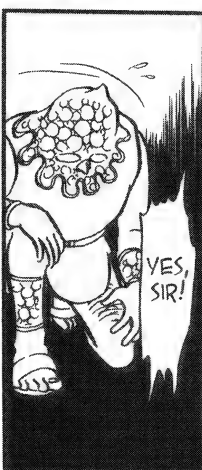
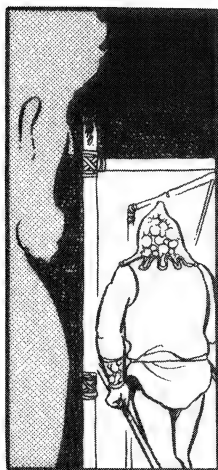
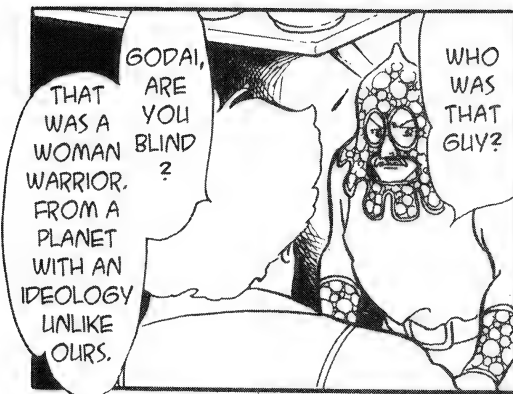


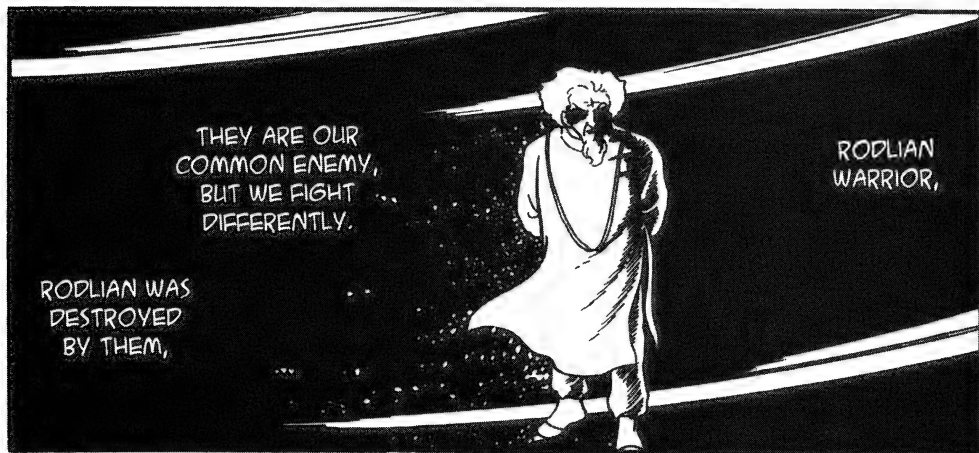
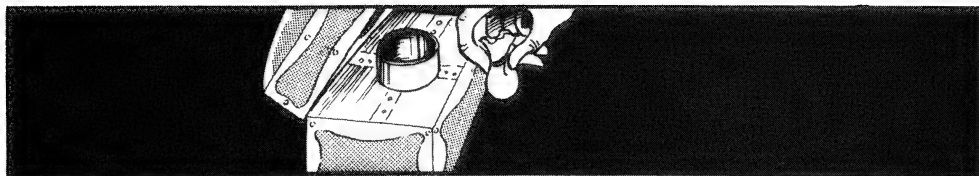
PRINCE—

PRINCE
JIMSA—

R-D-S-TO-OW!

HE
KNOWS
IT WILL
BE A
BOY?





THEY ARE OUR
COMMON ENEMY,
BUT WE FIGHT
DIFFERENTLY.

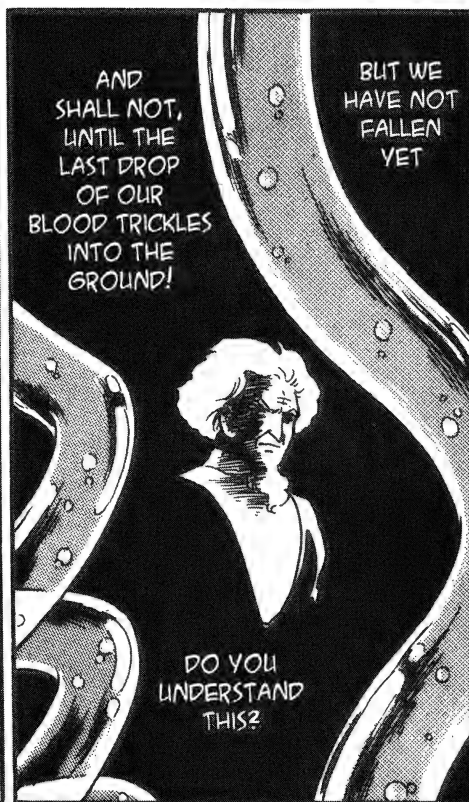
RODLIAN
WARRIOR,

RODLIAN WAS
DESTROYED
BY THEM,



THE
BLOOD
OF
AYODOYA
IS OUR
BLOOD!

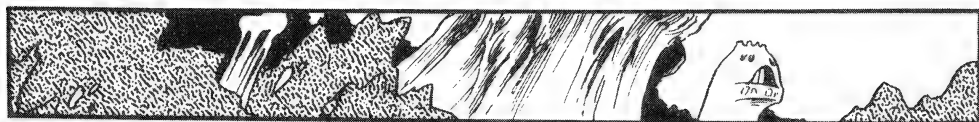
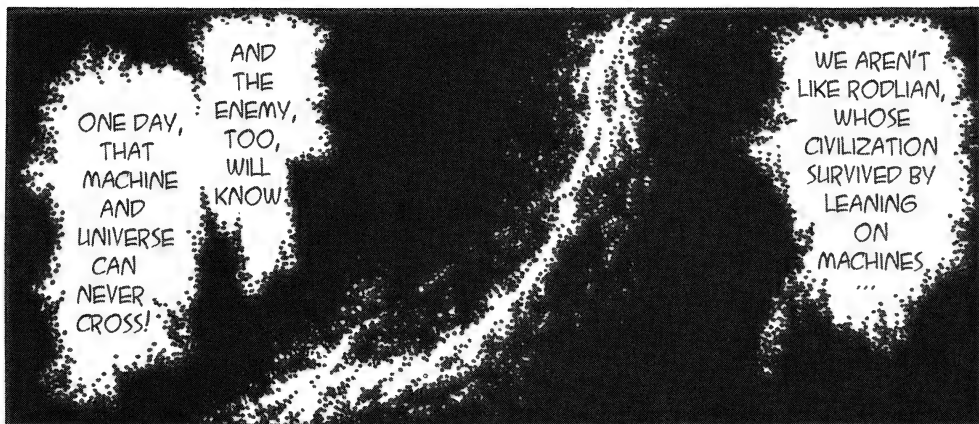
BLOOD
WE'VE
NURTURED
FOR
150
CYCLES
NOW
ON THIS
PLANET.



AND
SHALL NOT,
UNTIL THE
LAST DROP
OF OUR
BLOOD TRICKLES
INTO THE
GROUND!

BUT WE
HAVE NOT
FALLEN
YET

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THIS?





GET HIM!
KILL HIM!

A MATCH
IN EARNEST
TO
CELEBRATE
THE
QUEEN'S
CONCEPTION
!
IN
THEIR
AUGUST
PRE-
SENCE!

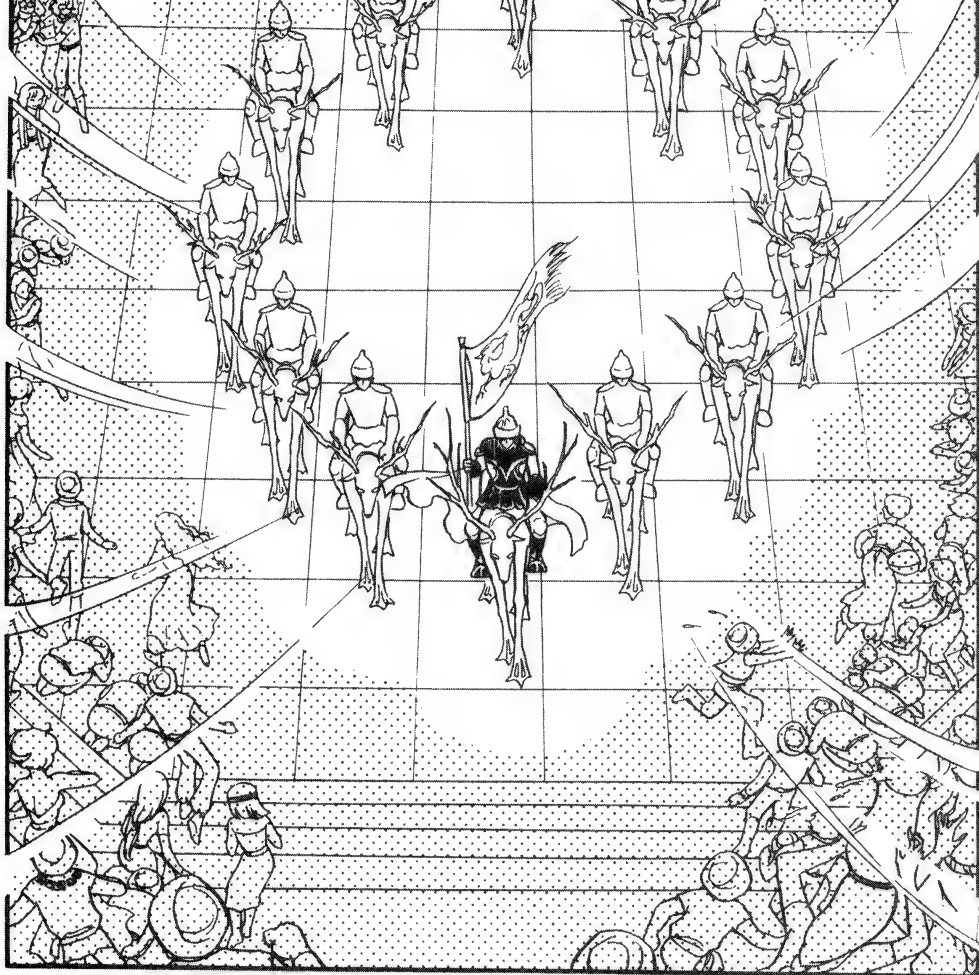


PRINCE
MILAN OF
THE KINGDOM
OF
AYODOYA
ARRIVES!



WHY NOT?
SEE HOW
PLEASED
THE
PEOPLE
ARE.

MAKE
THEM
STOP!
I WON'T
WATCH
THEM
RISK
THEIR
LIVES!



HE POSES...

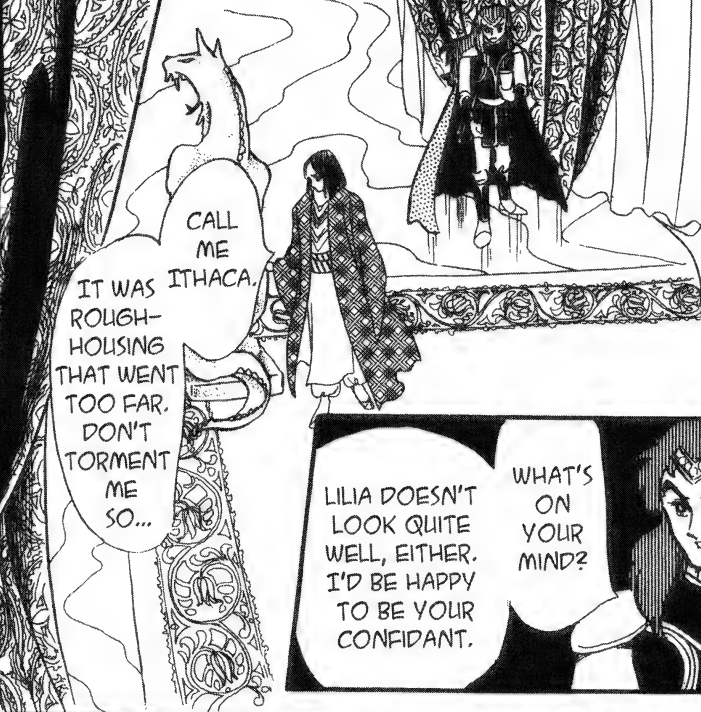


THE
DUODEC
RING,
A FOR-
MATION
TO WARD
OFF EVIL.



AH,
MY LORD!
THE
KNIGHTS
RIDE IN
DUODEC
RING!
DO YOU
SEE?
BROTHER
HAS
COME TO
WISH
ME
WELL.





IT WAS ROUGH-
HOUSING
THAT WENT
TOO FAR.
DON'T
TORMENT
ME
SO...

CALL
ME
ITHACA.

I KNEW
YOU
TO BE
A KIND
MAN AS
PRINCE
...

ASTRALTA III,
I DIDN'T
THINK
YOU WERE
INTO THAT
SORT OF
THING.

LILIA DOESN'T
LOOK QUITE
WELL, EITHER.
I'D BE HAPPY
TO BE YOUR
CONFIDANT.

WHAT'S
ON
YOUR
MIND?

STAY
ON
AS MY
POLITICAL
ADVISOR
!

DON'T
GO BACK
HOME.
YES...

MILAN!
HELP ME!
STAY HERE
WITH ME!

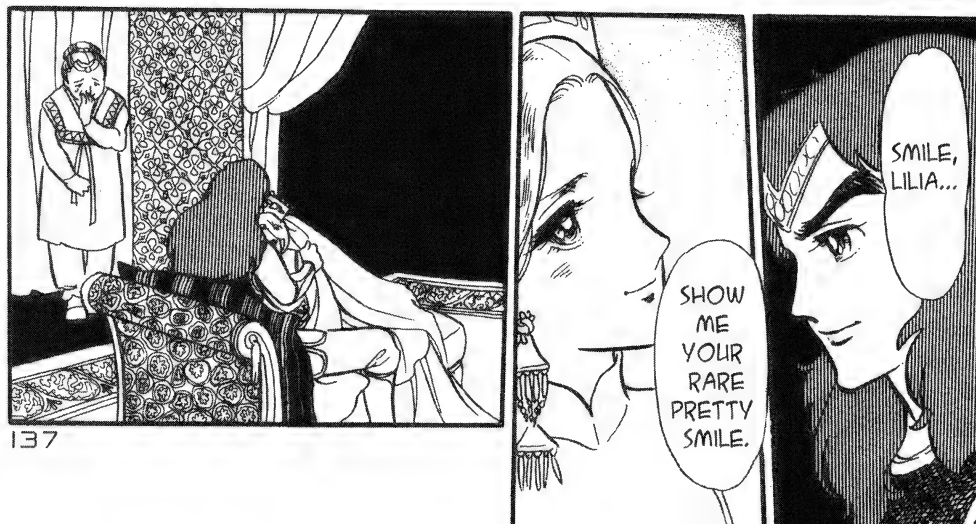
THAT'S
NOT
IT
!

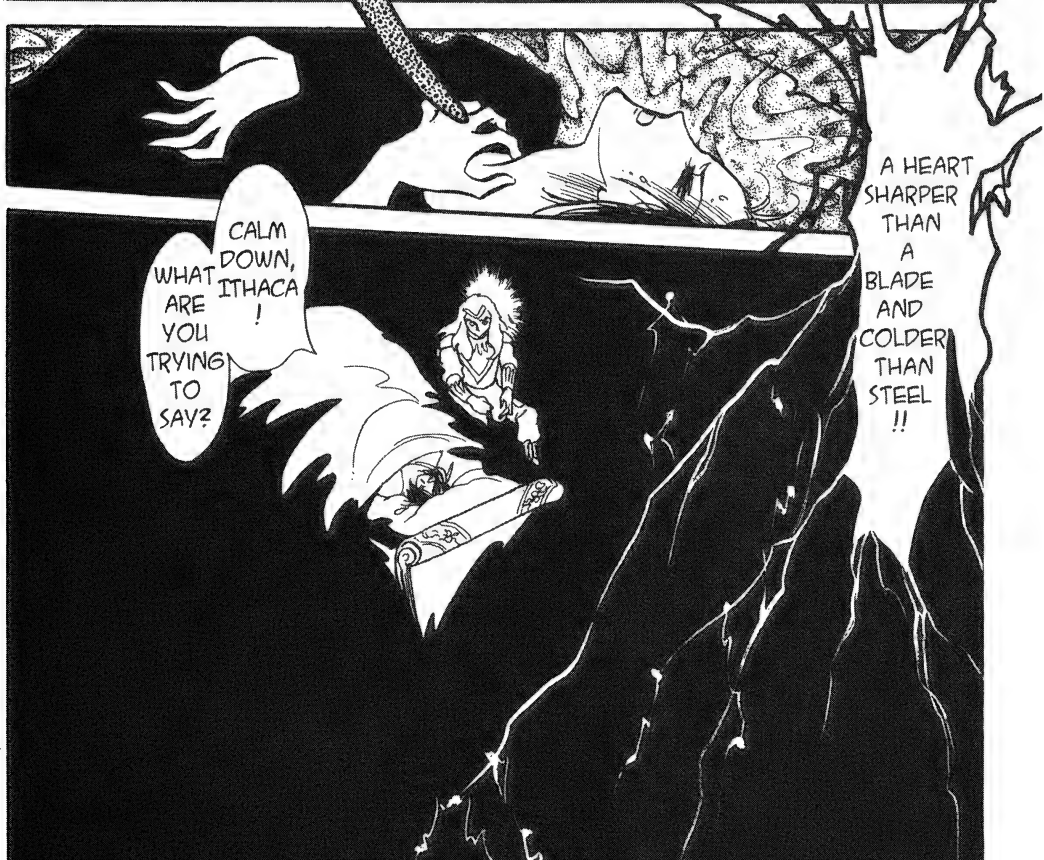
MILAN

I...
I...

NO DOUBT
THE CROWN
WEIGHS
HEAVY ON
YOUR HEAD,
BUT I, TOO,
AM HEIR TO
AYODOYA'S
THRONE.

ITHACA,
THAT'S
NOT
POS-
SIBLE.

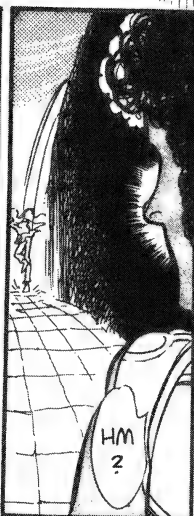
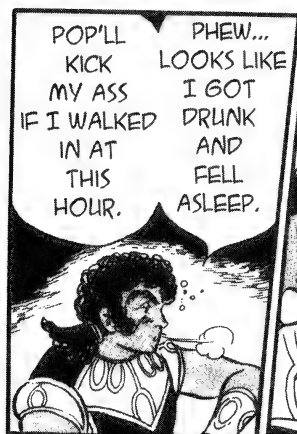




WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

CALM DOWN, ITHACA!

A HEART SHARPER THAN A BLADE AND COLDER THAN STEEL !!

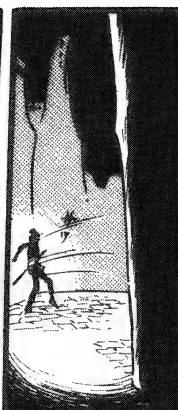




I'M
TAILING
YOU.



BUT
SHE IS
ACTING
STRANGE.



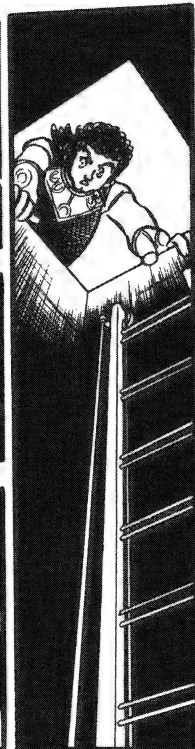
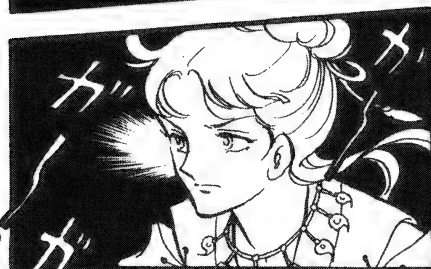
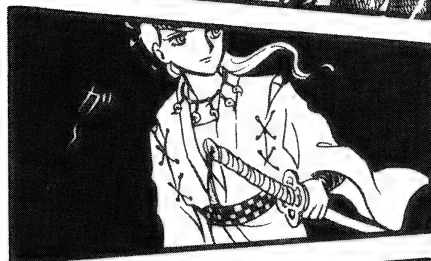
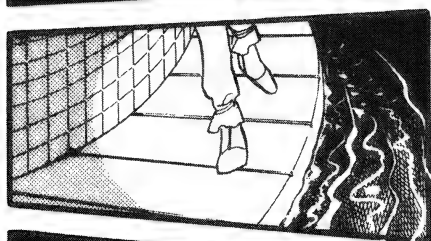
BUT THAT'S
NOT A
BURGLAR'S
FACE.

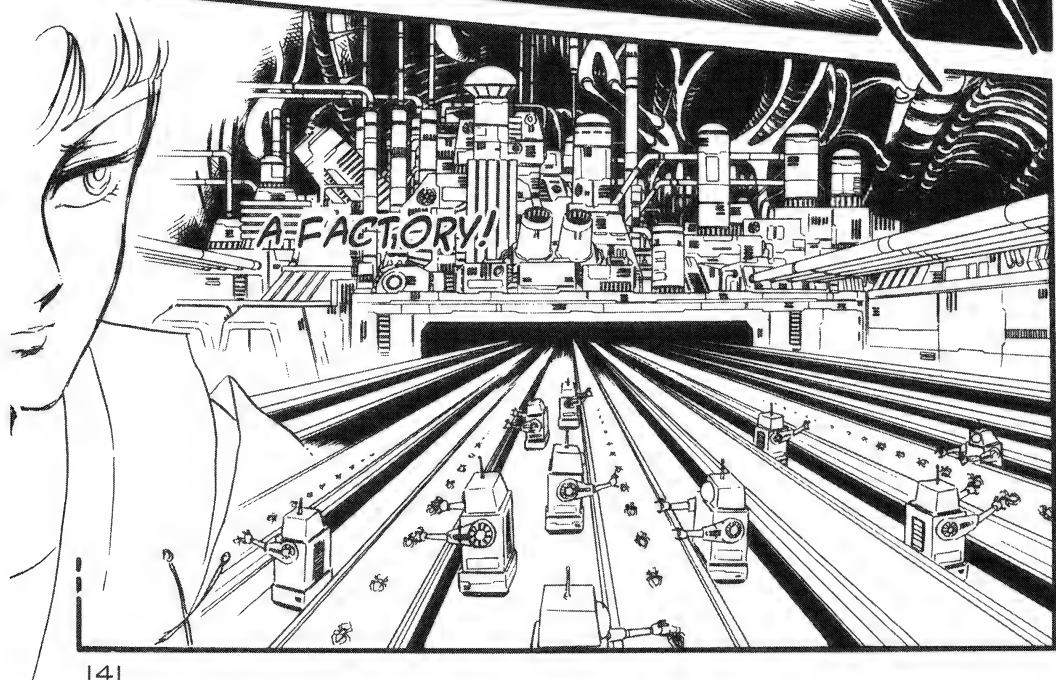
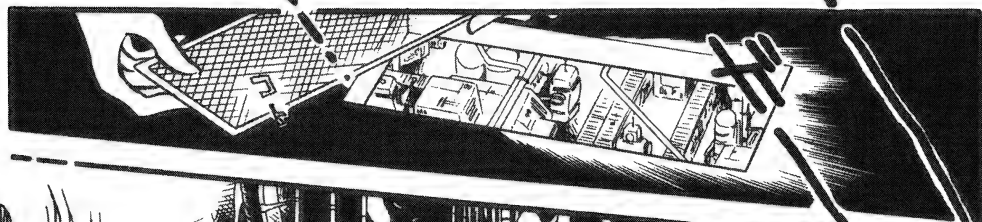
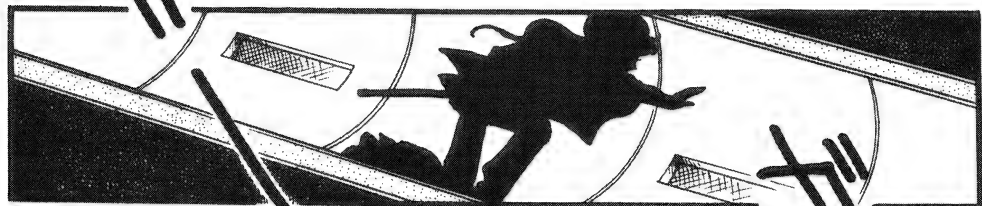
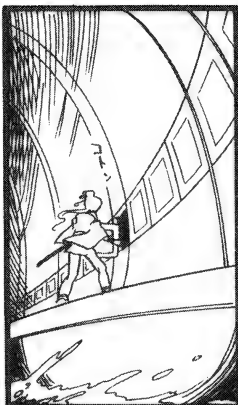
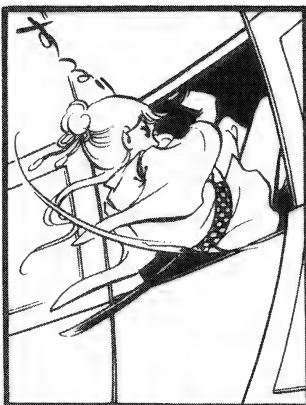
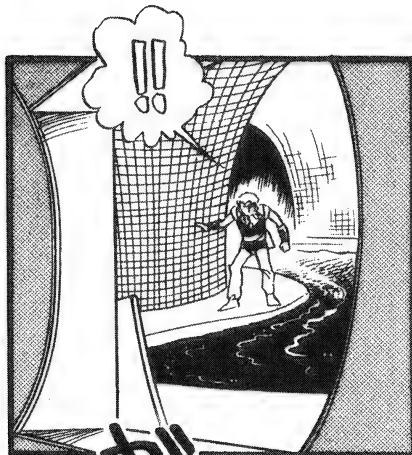
NAH.
SHE
MIGHT BE
STRONG,

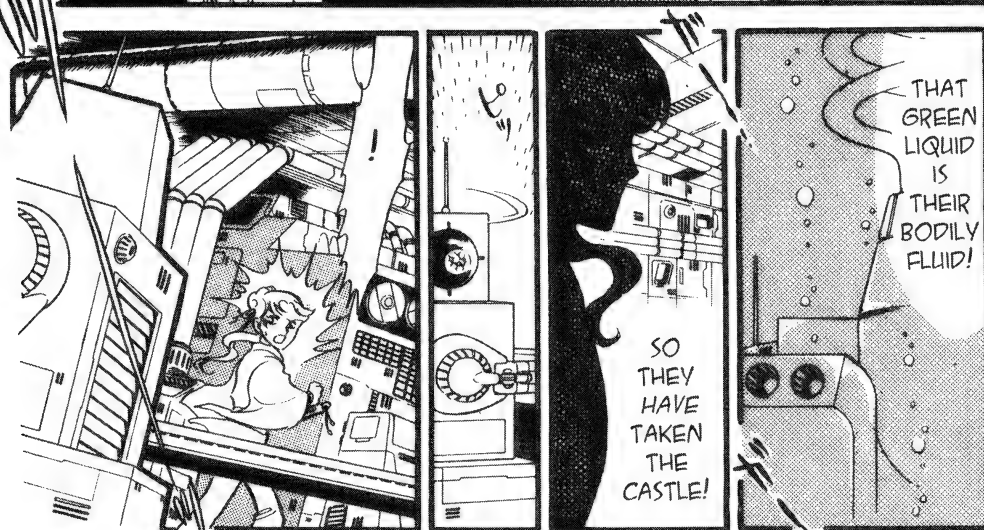
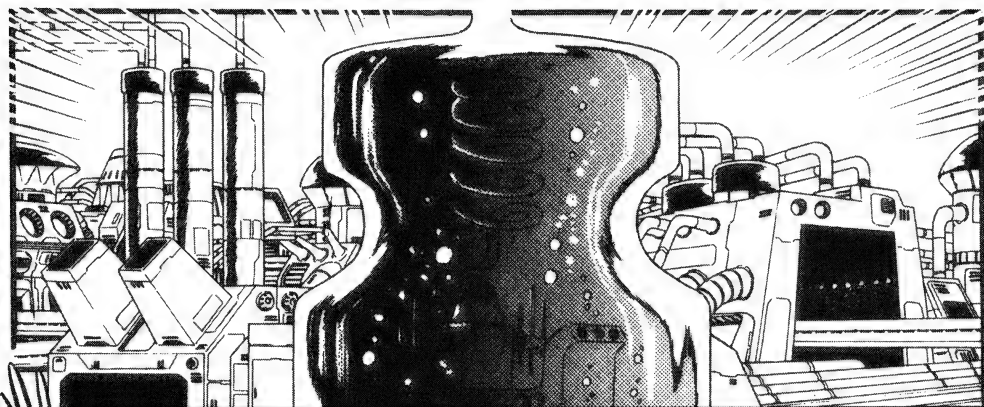
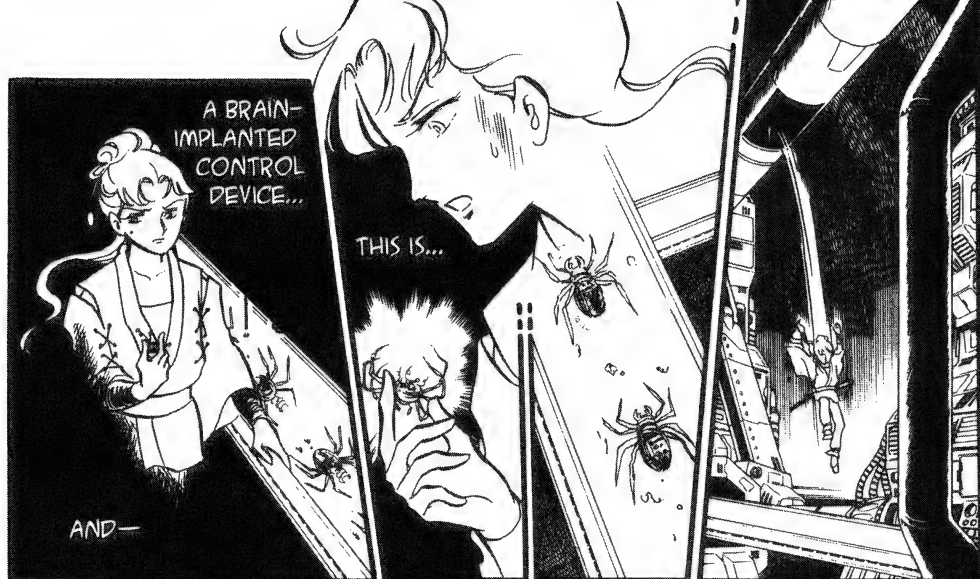


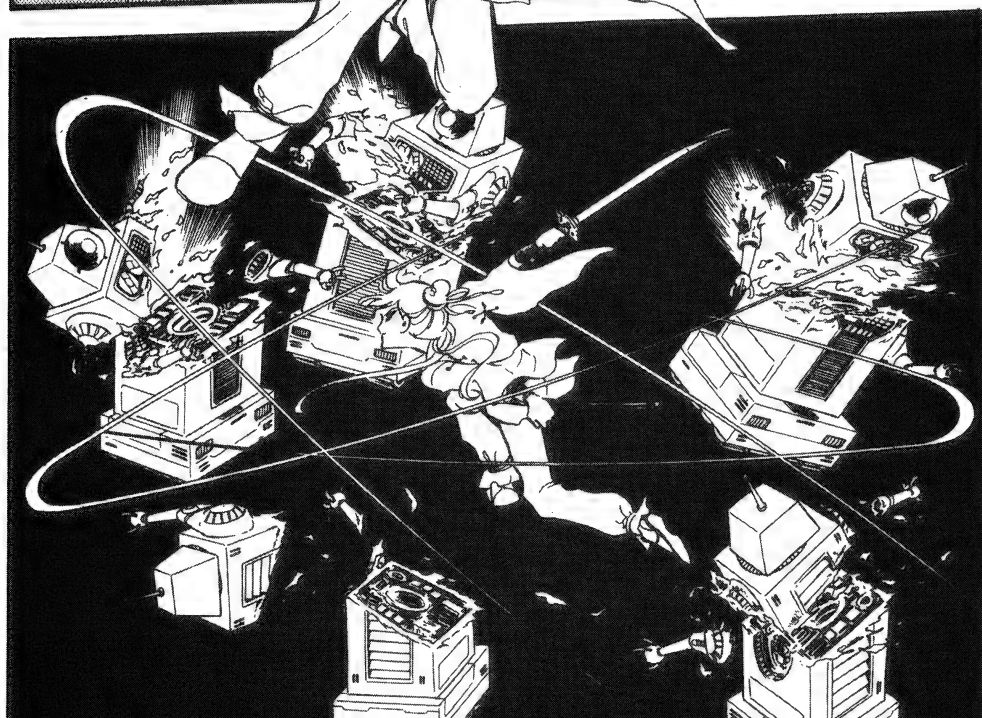
THE
SEWER?

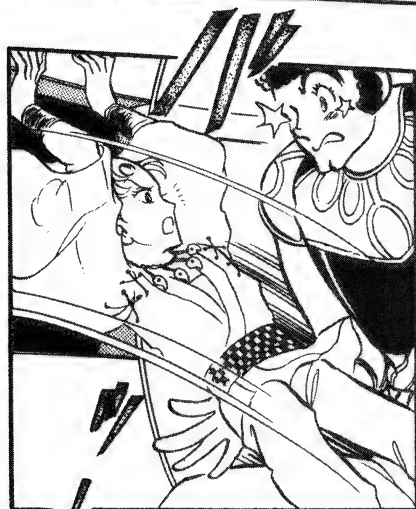
WHY?

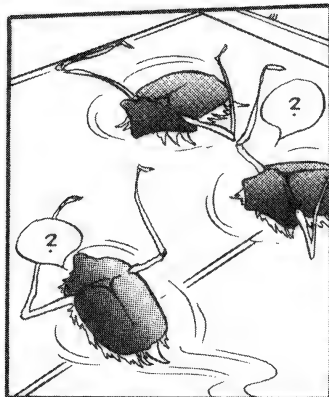
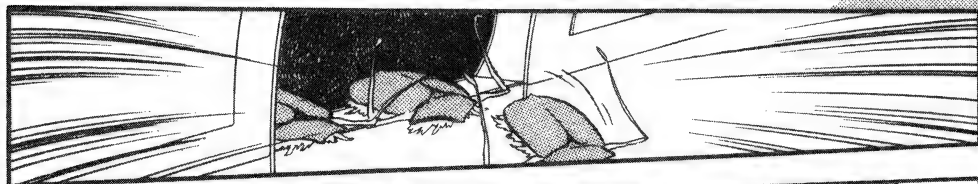














GOOD
THING
THEY
WERE
OF
SIMPLE
MAKE.

FIRST
TIME
YOU'VE
SEEN
IT ?

WHAT
THE
HELL
WAS
THAT ?

THAT'S WHAT
MACHINES
BORN OF
MACHINES
ARE LIKE.
THEY ARE
ALIVE!

M-MOVING
LIKE IT
WAS
ALIVE...

I...I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
SUCH A
MACHINE!



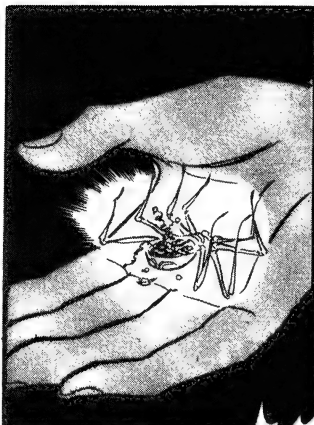
BEST TO
THINK OF IT
AS A DREAM,
IF YOU WANT
TO LIVE.

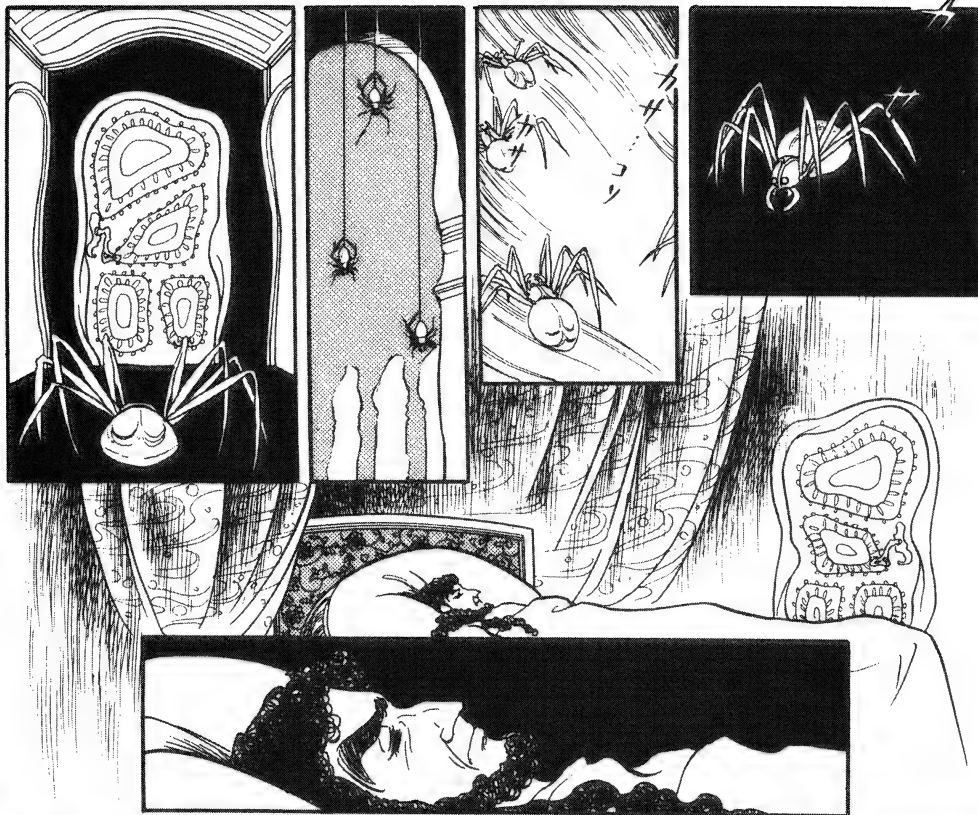
WHETHER
YOU TELL
PEOPLE
OF
THIS IS
UP TO
YOU.

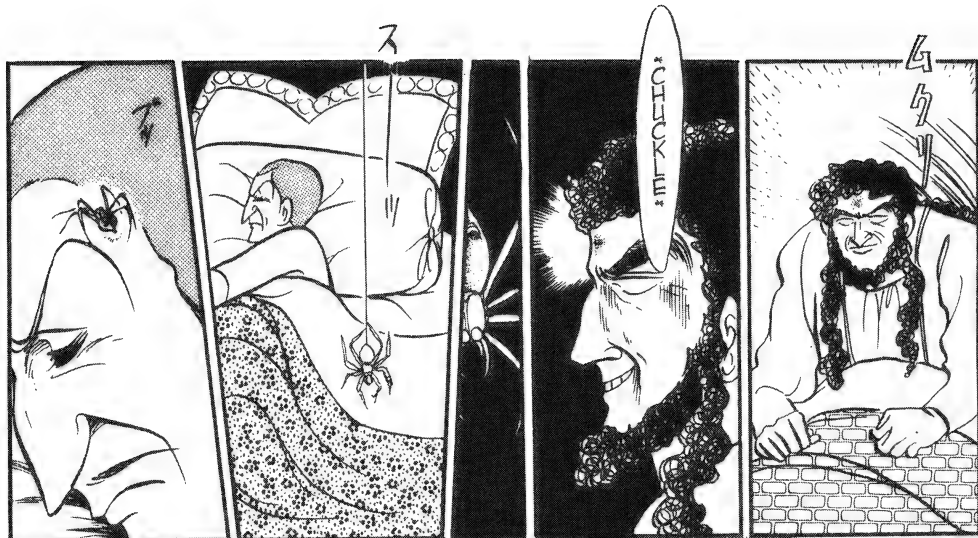
YOU
PEACE-
HEADS
WON'T
GET IT,
THOUGH
...

GO
SEE THE
OLD MAN IN
THE FOREST
IF YOU
WANT TO
LEARN
MORE.

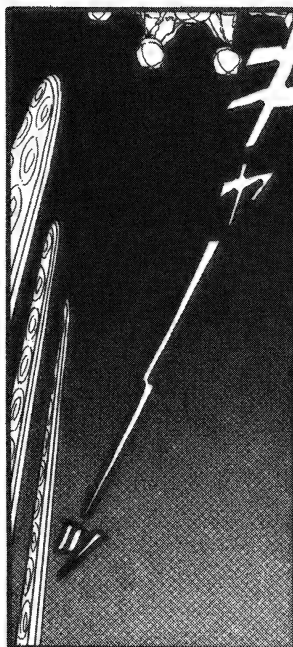
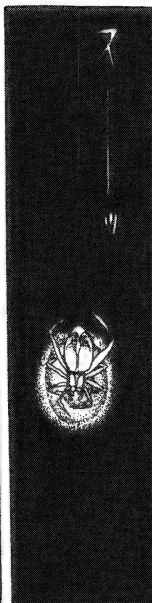
THIS
KINGDOM
HAS BEEN
INFESTED.
THERE'S
THE
PROOF.

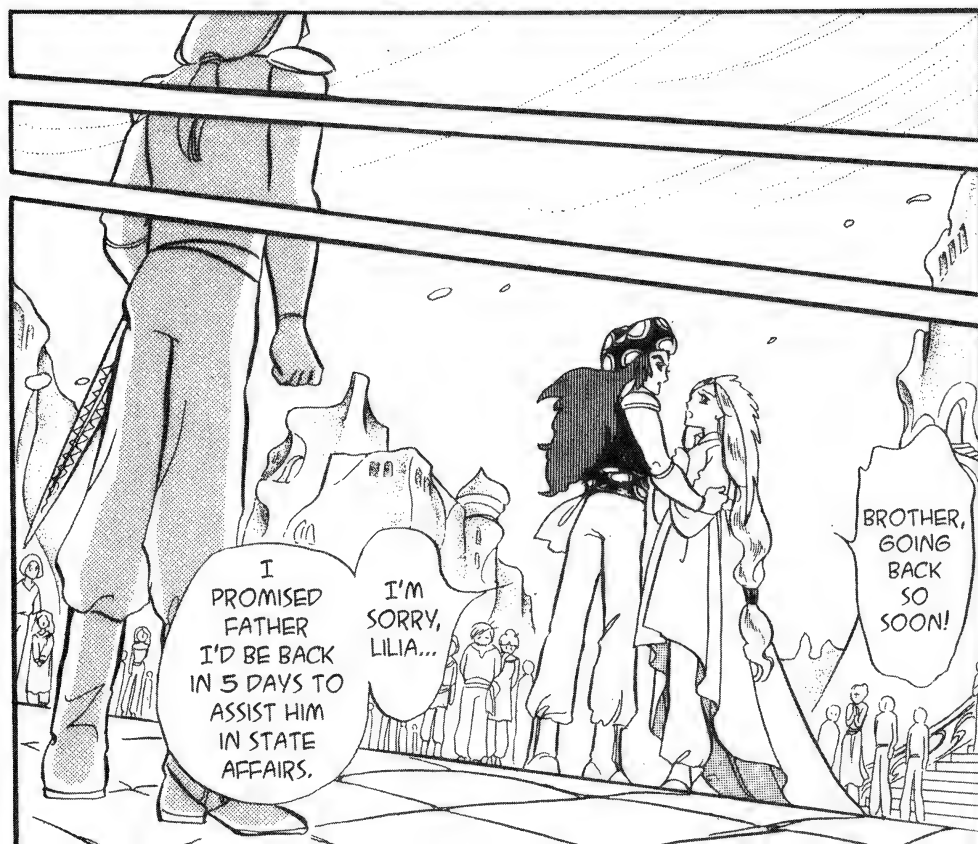
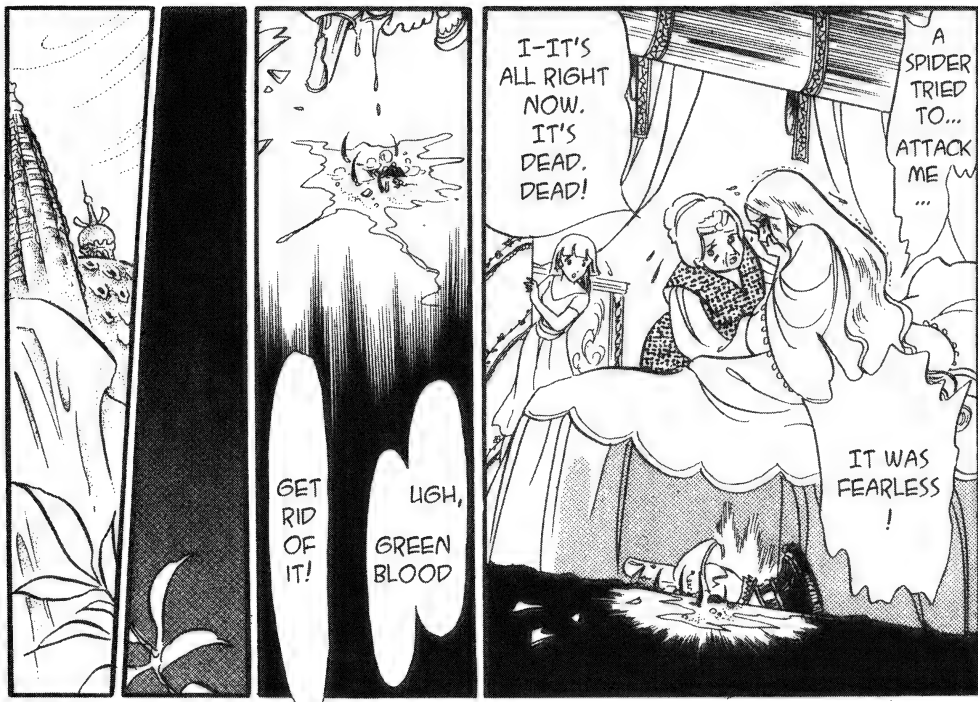














DEAR,
BELOVED
BROTHER

THE
ONLY
PERSON
I TRUST...



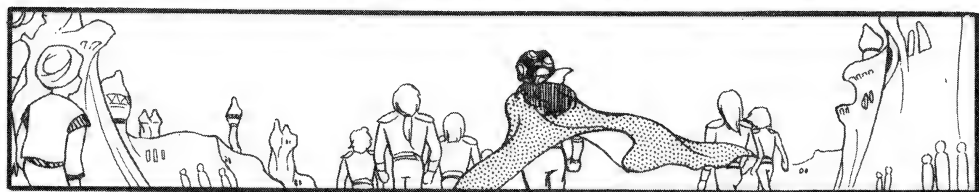
WHAT CAN
I SAY?

WHAT CAN I
SAY TO KEEP
YOU HERE?



I'LL
RETURN
FOR A
LONGER
VISIT
WHEN
THE
CHILD IS
BORN.

YOU'LL
BE A
MOTHER
IN 2
MONTHS.
STAY
STRONG!



ARE
YOU
SAD
?

HA,
SO
HE'S
GONE.



LILIA,
MY
DEAR
LILIA.

STAY
BY
MY
SIDE
!

NO,
I
AM
...



LOOK
OUT
FOR
THE
SAND
SPOUT!

LOOK!
A RED
SAND-
STORM.



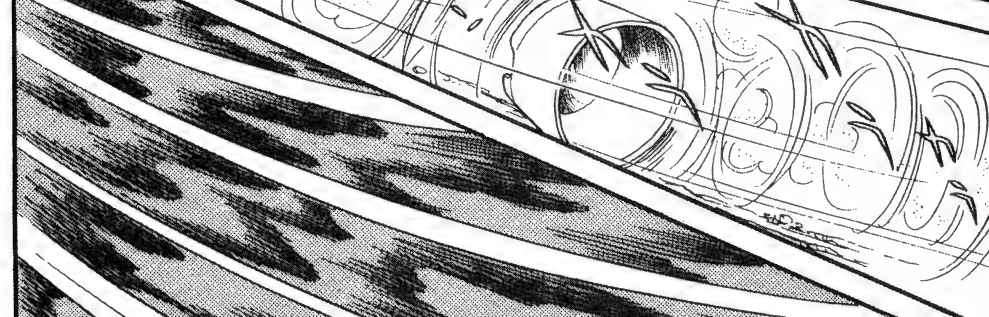
LEGEND
SAYS
THE YEAR
IT HAILS
RED SAND,
BAD THINGS
HAPPEN.

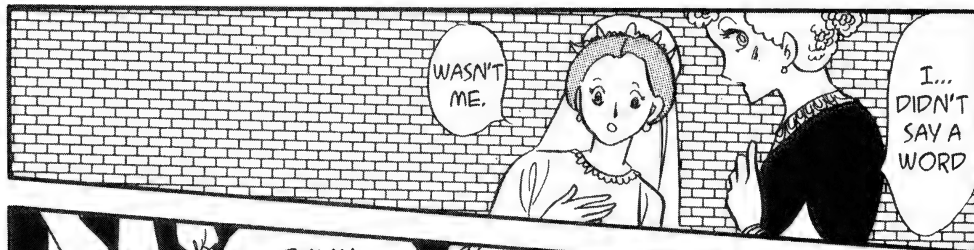
GRAMPS'S
SHAKING
IN A
HOLE.



BAD
...

IT'S
A BAD
OMEN,
BAD...







AAH
...



JUST AS
THE BABY
IS ABOUT
TO BE
BORN!

WHAT
LUCK TO
HAVE
ALL THE
CASTLE
LIGHTS
GO OUT



AN
ILL
OMEN
...

IS IT
THE
SAND
?

WHAT'S
THE
THOUGHT-
MACHINE
ROOM
DOING?

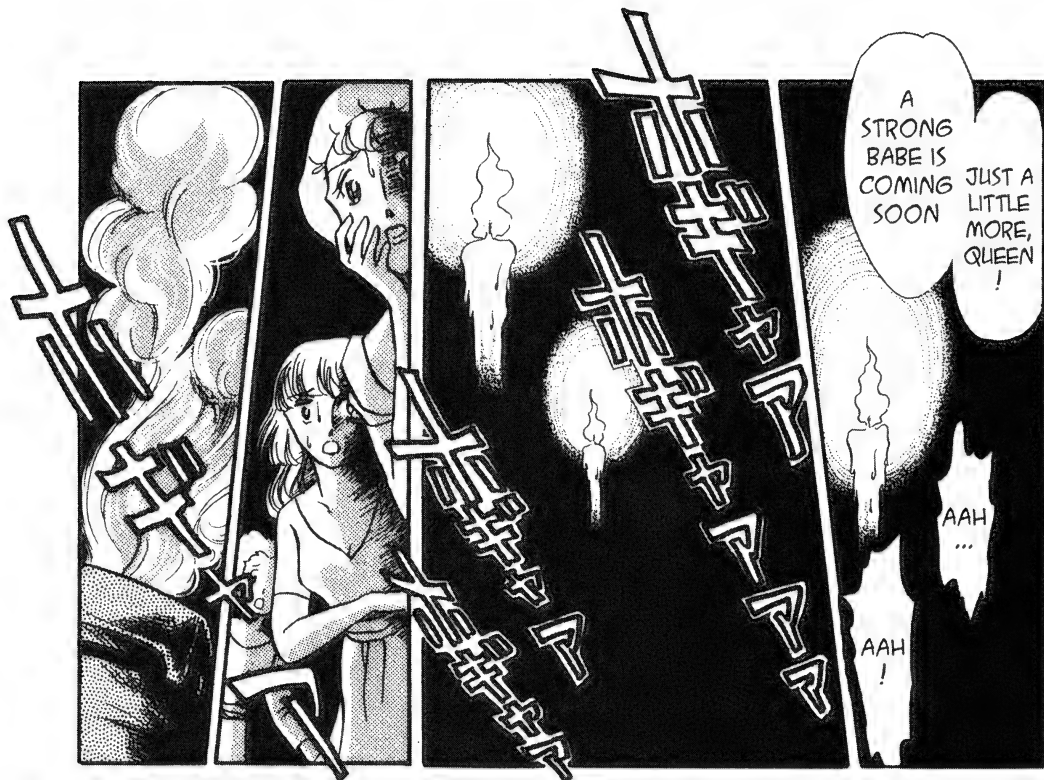


STOP
YAMMERING
AND BOIL
SOME WATER!
IT'LL BE
SOON.



HURRY
WITH
THE
LIGHTS
!

IT'S
HERE
!





YES
...

Y-

O
GOD
!

LET
ME
SEE
IT!

COME



IT WAS
WORTH
OUR WAIT
IN THE
HALL,
PRIME
MINISTER.

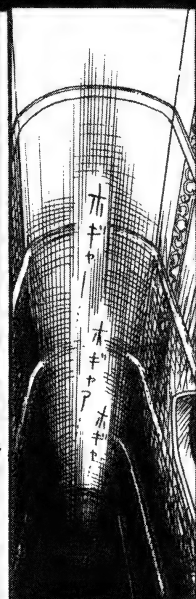
IT'S
GOT A
GOOD
SET OF
PIPES!

IT'S
BORN
...

I
HEAR
ITS
CRY.

IT'S
BORN.

AH



IS WHAT
ANY- ...
THING
WRONG
WITH
MY
BABY
?!

THE
FATE
OF THE
REALM
HANGS
ON THIS.

SILENCE!

HOW
COULD
THE
QUEEN,
OF ALL

THIS
IS
...!

A
MOMENT
PLEASE.
WE NEED
SOME
LIGHT.

TAKE
THAT BABY
TO HER!
IT MATTERS
NOT WHICH
...
THE
ONE
ON THE
RIGHT!



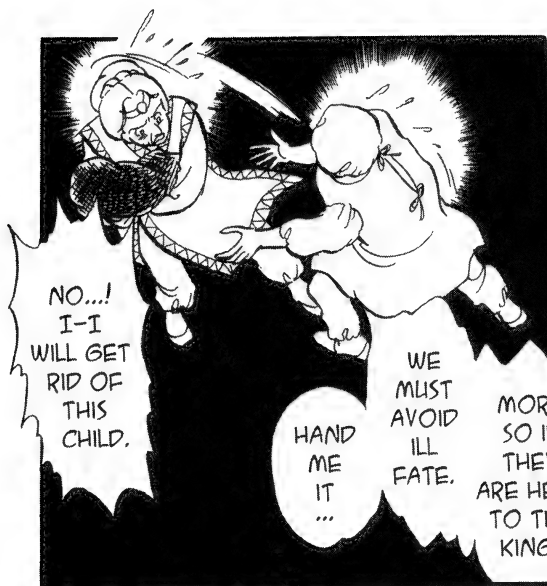
OH

LOOK,
QUEEN
!

IT'S
A
PRINCE
!

SUCH A
DARLING
PRINCE!

MY
BABY
!



NO...!
I-I
WILL GET
RID OF
THIS
CHILD.

HAND
ME
IT
...

WE
MUST
AVOID
ILL
FATE.

MORE
SO IF
THEY
ARE HEIRS
TO THE
KING!



IT'S AN
AGE-OLD LAW
OF THE LAND:
TWO HEIRS AT
ONCE INVITES
CALAMITY...

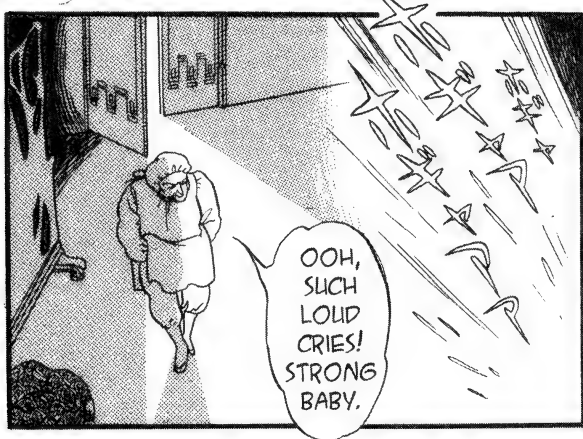


DOCTOR!
ARE YOU
SAVING
WE'LL
LEAVE IT
OUT TO
DIE?



IT'S
STILL
THE
KING'S.
I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT

THAT
CHILD IS
NO PRINCE.
THERE
CAN'T BE
TWO!

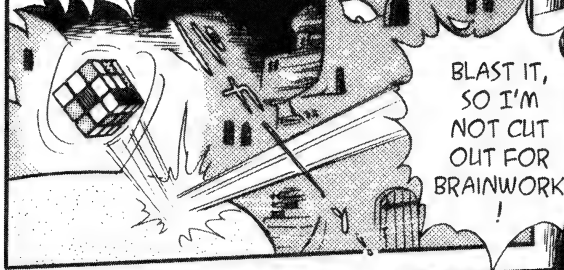


OOH,
SUCH
LOUD
CRIES!
STRONG
BABY.



IN
THE
END
IT MUST
DIE...

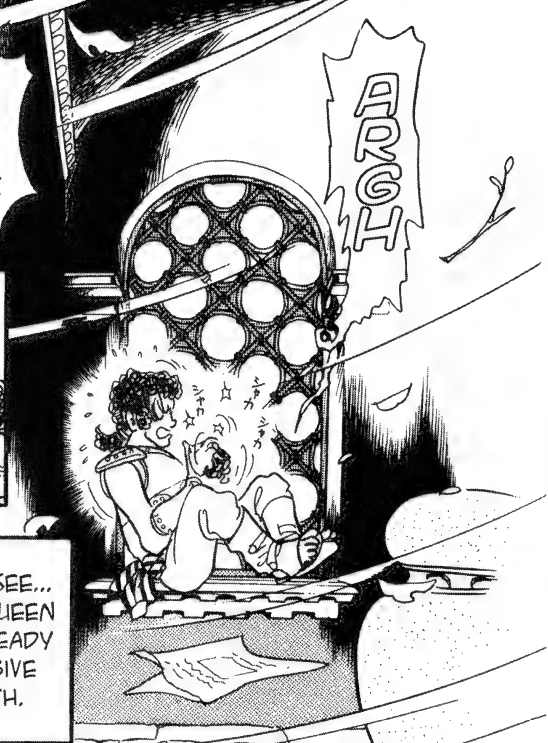




BLAST IT,
SO I'M
NOT CUT
OUT FOR
BRAINWORK
!



THANKS TO
THAT THING,
I LOST MY
CHANCE
TO GET
BOOZED!



HM?

HAS
SHE
YET?

LET'S SEE...
THE QUEEN
WAS READY
TO GIVE
BIRTH.



WHAT?
WHO BABE
?
YOU
?!?



TAKE THIS
BABE AND
FLEE.



I SHALL ONLY
SAY THIS ONCE.

COME HERE,
GLADIATOR
!



WHO STANDS
THERE
...?



HIS MAJ-
ESTY THE
KING!

GLADIATOR,
TO WHOM
DO YOU
PLEGE
FEALTY?

NE'ER
YOU MIND
!



THEN TAKE
THIS CHILD
FOR HIS
MAJESTY
AND LEAVE
THIS CITY
AND
THIS
LAND!



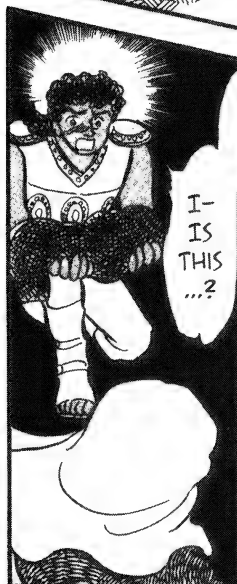
BALGA,
GREATEST
GLADI-
ATOR
IN THE
REALM!

WHAT
DO
THEY

CALL
YOU
?



THEN
DO
THIS.



I-
IS
THIS
...?



DO
NOT
TELL
A
SOUL!



YES!



WHOSE?
IT WAS
JUST
BORN....



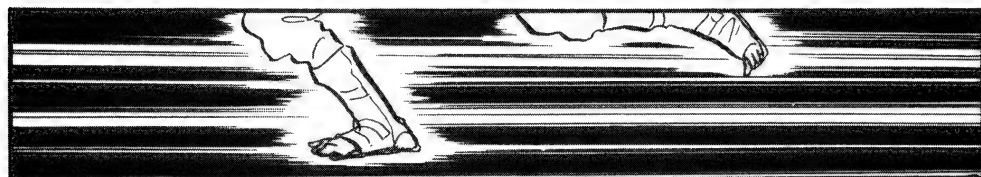
TO QUICK,
A FAR
PLACE
NONE
SHALL
KNOW!



WHY
WOULD IT
BE WITH
ME? -

CAN'T
BE!

THE
QUEEN'S
...?



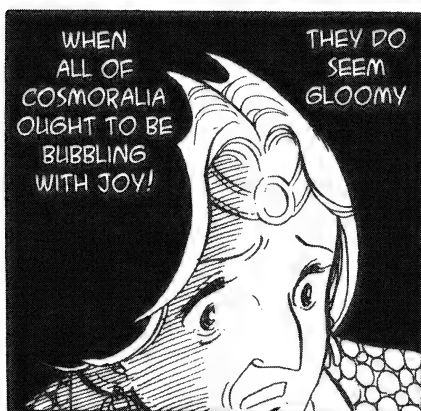
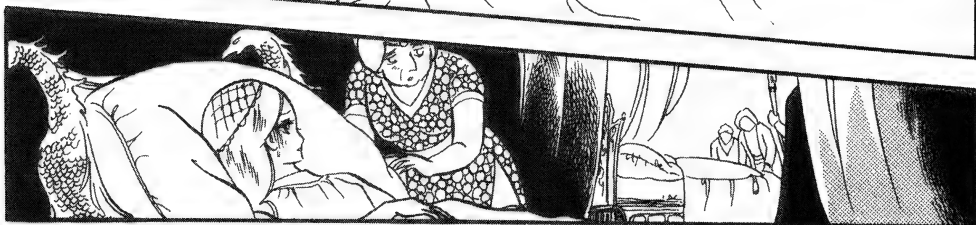
OHH
MAY
THE
CHILD
GROW
SAFE
AND
SOUND!



DEAR
GOD
!

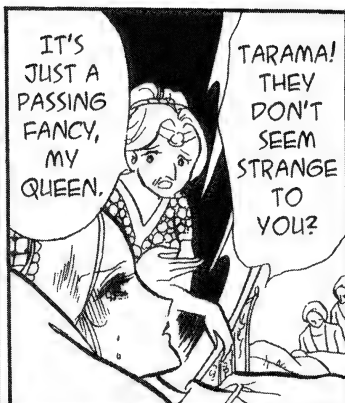
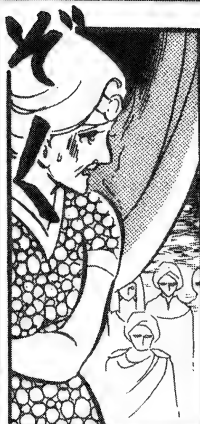






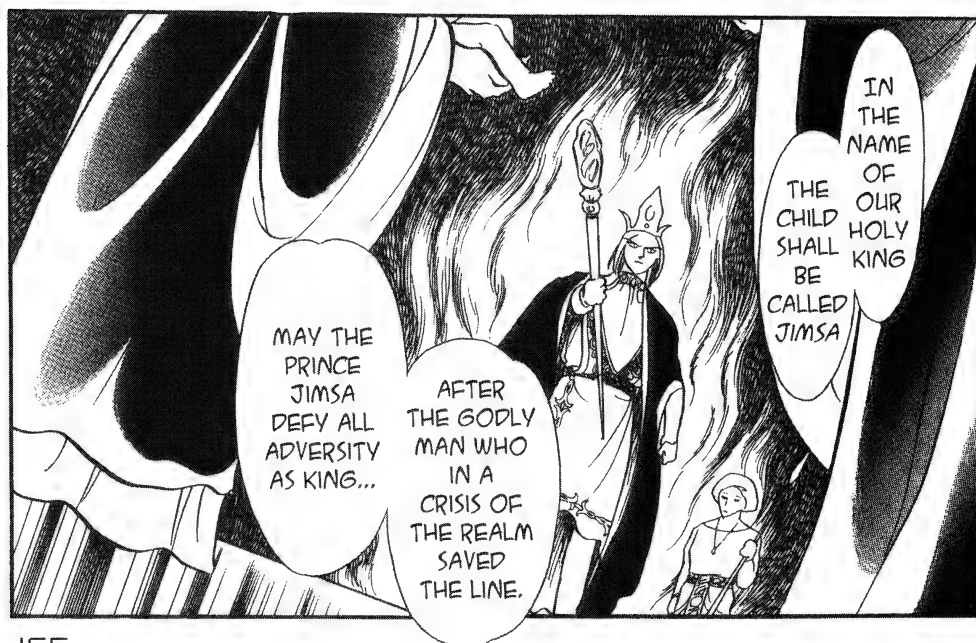
WHEN
ALL OF
COSMORALIA
OUGHT TO BE
BUBBLING
WITH JOY!

THEY DO
SEEM
GLOOMY



IT'S
JUST A
PASSING
FANCY,
MY
QUEEN.

TARAMA!
THEY
DON'T
SEEM
STRANGE
TO
YOU?



MAY THE
PRINCE
JIMSA
DEFY ALL
ADVERSITY
AS KING...

AFTER
THE GODLY
MAN WHO
IN A
CRISIS OF
THE REALM
SAVED
THE LINE.

THE
CHILD
SHALL
BE
CALLED
JIMSA

IN
THE
NAME
OF OUR
HOLY
KING

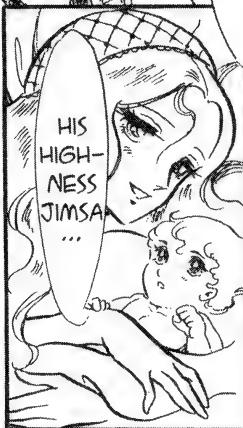


HIS
HIGH-
NESS
JIMSA!

WHAT A
SPLENDID
NAME!



HIS
HIGH-
NESS
JIMSA
...

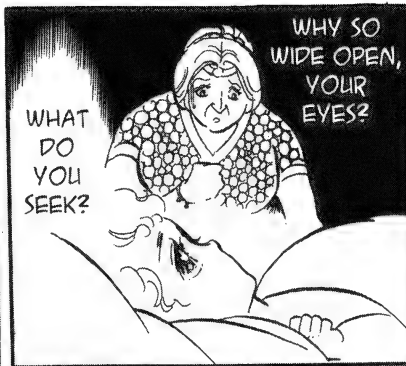


BUT
HE HAS
NOT
CRIED
OR
SLEPT
FOR
A DAY.



THE
QUEEN
HAS
NOT
NOTICED

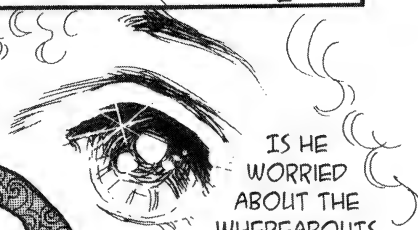
WHAT
DO
YOU
SEEK?

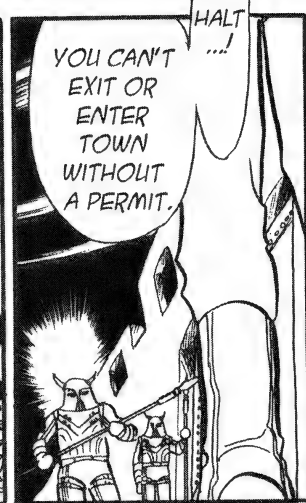


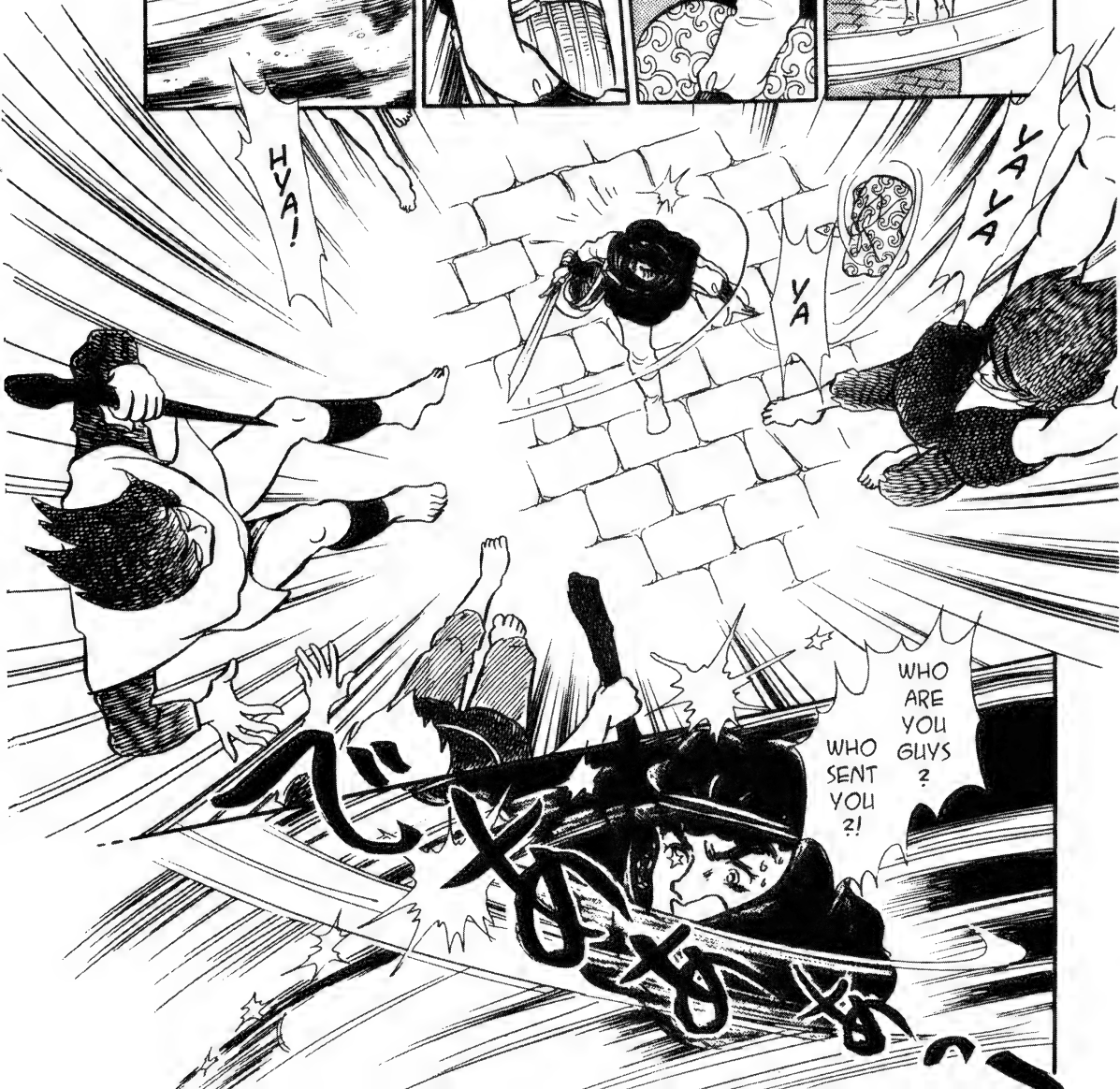
WHY SO
WIDE OPEN,
YOUR
EYES?

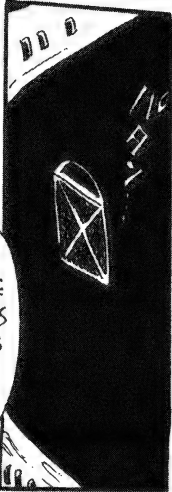


IS HE
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
WHEREABOUTS
OF HIS
OTHER HALF?











WHY
DO YOU
KNOW
MY NAME
?!



I'M JUST
A GHETTO
HOOKER.
CORINO'S
THE NAME.
FAVOR
ME.



IT'S
TOO WEAK
TO CRY!

AWW ...
HOW LONG
HAS IT
GONE UNFED
?

WHO
ARE
YOU?

YOU FANCY ...
THERE'S ANYONE
WHO DOESN'T,
TOP
GLADIATOR
BALGA?



SIR
BALGA,
WITH AN
INFANT.
WHERE
TO?

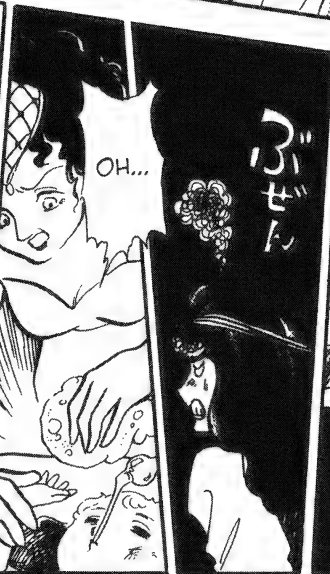
ほほ...

えい



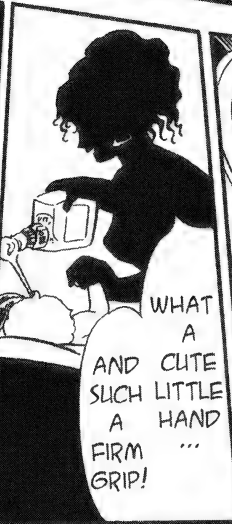
WHAT'S
WRONG
?
IS IT
HURT?

LOOK AT
THE BABY'S
PALM!!



OH...

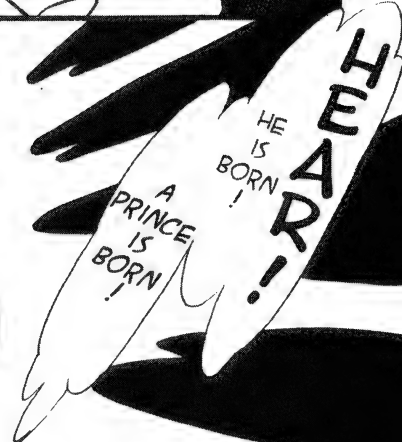
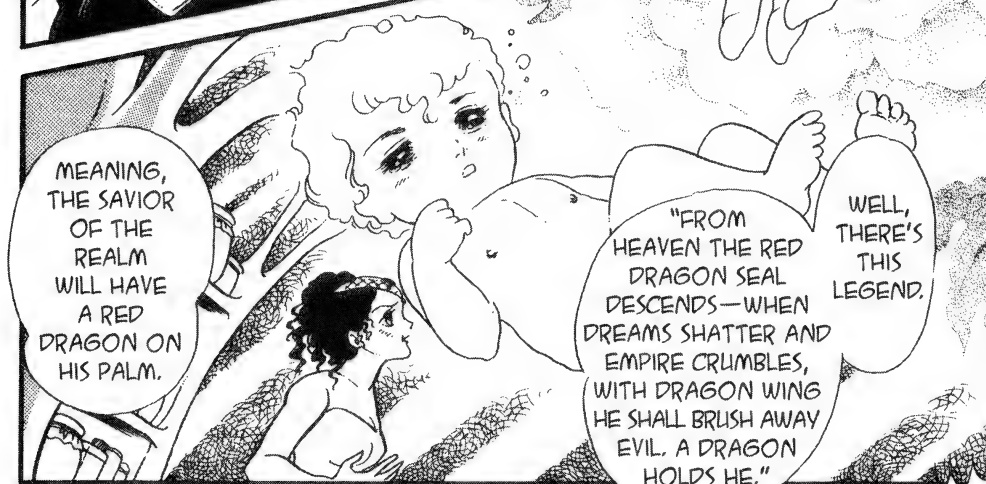
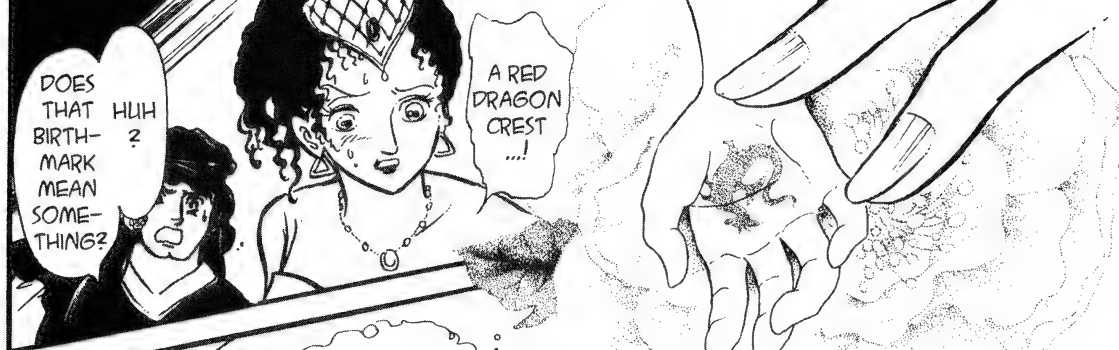
ぶぜん



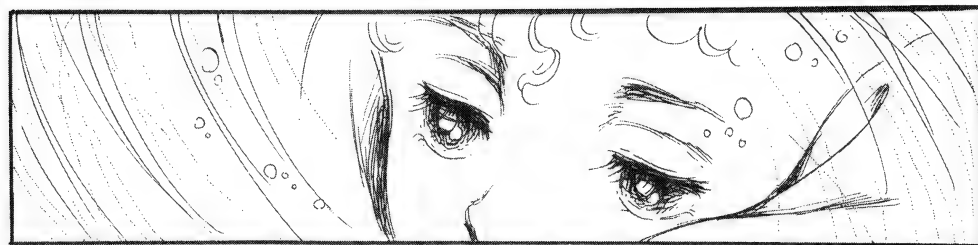
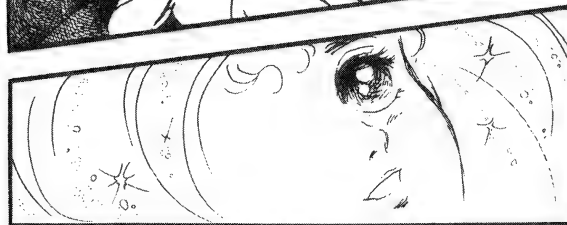
WHAT
A CUTE
LITTLE
HAND
...
WHAT
AND SUCH
A FIRM
GRIP!



WHAT
COULD
I DO
?









WHY SHOULD YOU BE SO HARSH, MY LORD?

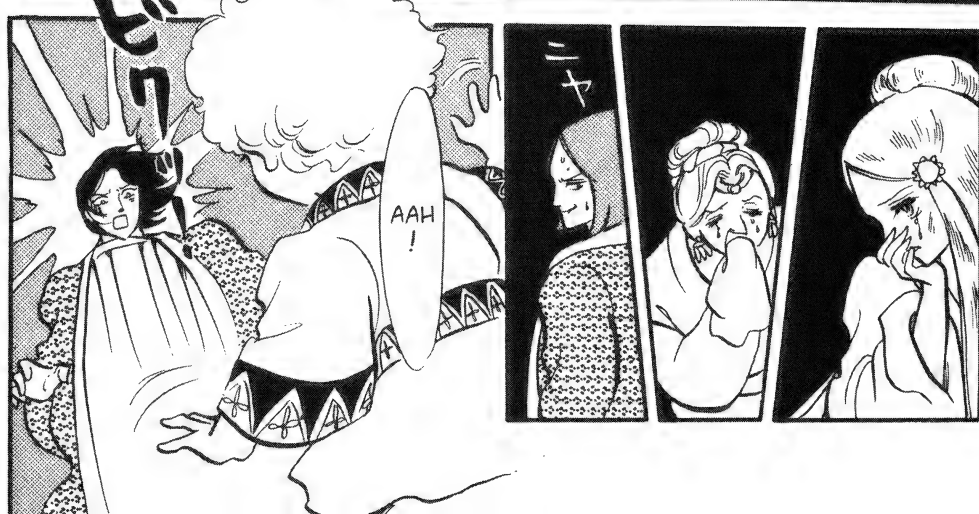
HAVE THE KING AND HIS MINISTERS NO EAR LEFT FOR THEM ?

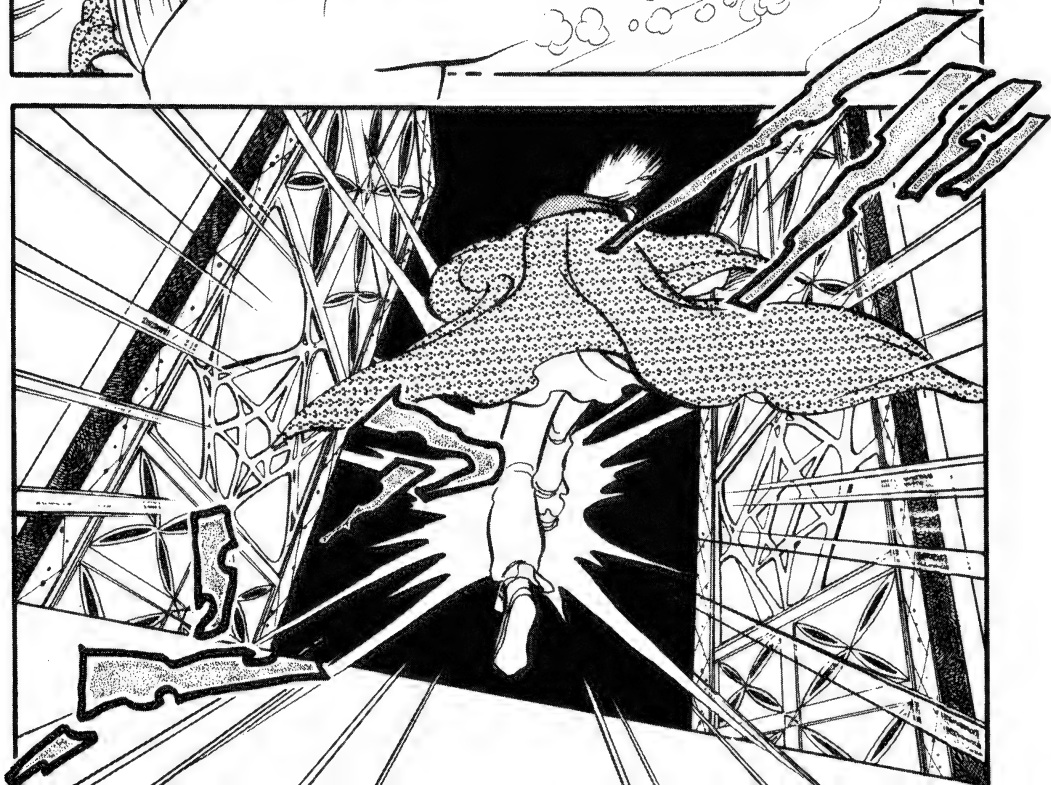
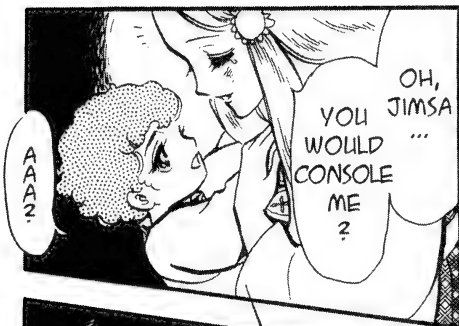


I HEAR THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR ABODES, OUT INTO THE COLD!



WHY, MY LORD ?
WHAT NEED IS THERE TO REMAKE THE CITY?







I CAN
CARRY ON

AS LONG
AS JIMSA
IS WITH
ME!

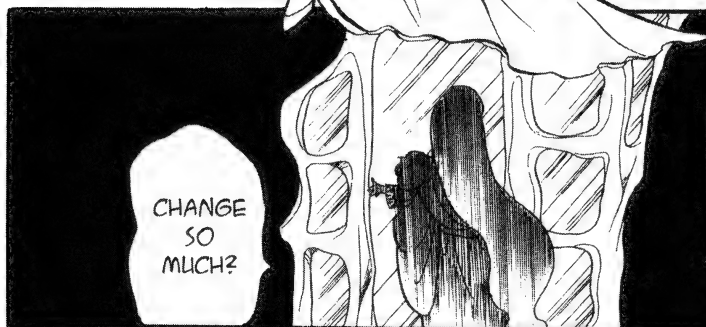


OH,
TARA-
MA...
IT'S
OKAY
...



LAUGH
...

SEE,
I'M
ABLE
TO



CHANGE
SO
MUCH?

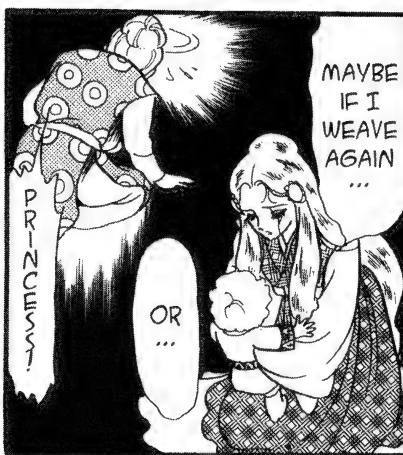
THE KING
MUST
BE ILL.
FROM
OVER-
WORK.

WHY ELSE
SHOULD A
MAN AS
KIND AS
PRINCE
ITHACA



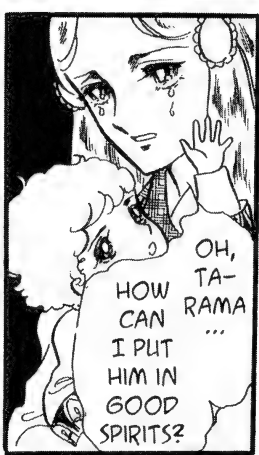
SHAME
ON
ME!!

I'M OF
SO LITTLE
HELP...



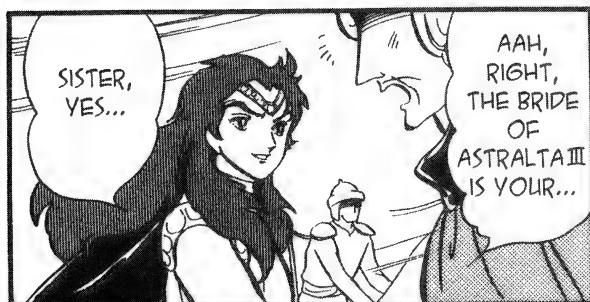
MAYBE
IF I
WEAVE
AGAIN
...

OR
...



OH,
TA-
RAMA
...

HOW
CAN
I PUT
HIM IN
GOOD
SPIRITS?



SISTER,
YES...

AAH,
RIGHT,
THE BRIDE
OF
ASTRALTA III
IS YOUR...



AH, SO IT
WAS YOUR
CONVOY,
AYODOVAN
PRINCE!



SHH!

...THE
KING IS
LIKE A
DIFFERENT
MAN...

THE
POOR
QUEEN
...

ARCHDUKE
RILIÉTE.
DO YOU
RIDE TO
MEET THE
NEWBORN
TOO?



THE
DESERT
SPREADS.
ONLY A
FEW
OASES
REMAIN
...

THEIR
PEOPLE
HAVE GONE
BAD... THEIR
BORDER
TOWNS ARE
THIEVES'
DENS.

TODAY
IT
BRISTLES
WITH
STRANGE
BUILD-
INGS.

THE
ONCE
BEAUTIFUL
ARAN-
CHAN!

THE
SECRET
POLICE
WHISKS
YOU
AWAY!!

SAY A
WORD
AGAINST
THE
CROWN
AND

A
DARK
REIGN
!

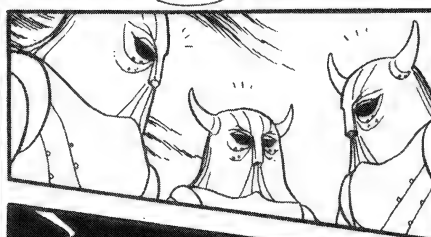
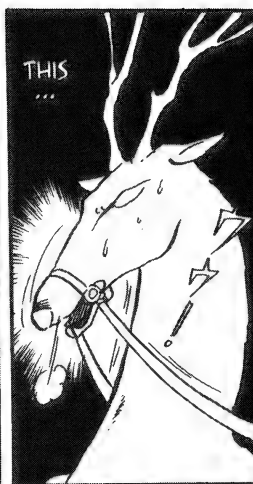
NAY,
THE
PEOPLE
TOO,
IF ONLY
LESS SO
...

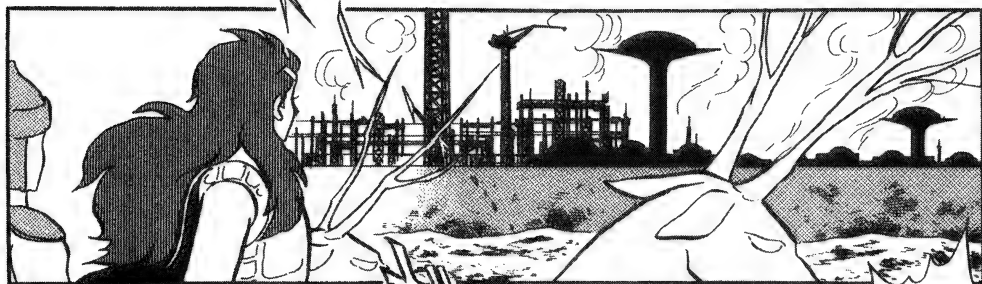
NOT JUST
THE KING.
HIS
MINISTERS
HAVE ALSO
GONE
MAD...

AND
IT
SEEMS
THE
NEW
NORM.

EVEN
THE
WEATHER
IS OUT
OF
JOINT
...

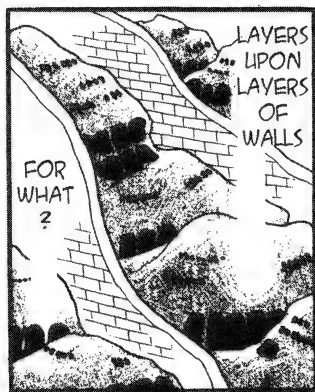








THIS TIME, LILIA,
I COME TO
TAKE YOU AWAY
FROM THIS
COUNTRY.



FOR
WHAT
?



NO
WONDER
THEY'VE
GONE MAD,
LIVING
AMIDST
THIS
SAND.



BUT
THIS



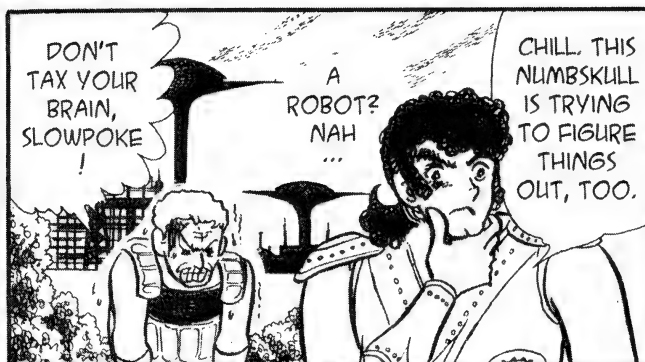


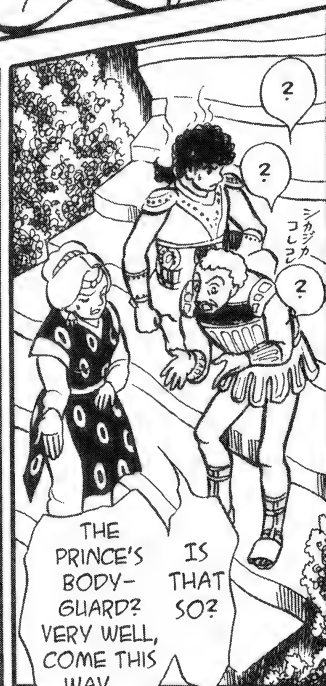
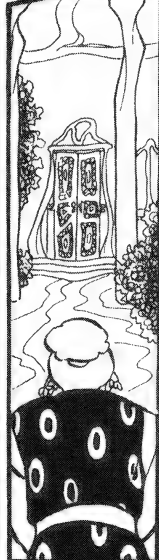
THIS HERE IS
MY SON BALGA,
WHO'LL BE
SERVING AS
BODYGUARD
TO THE CROWN
PRINCE.

I AM
GODAI,
OF A LONG
LINEAGE
OF GLADI-
ATORS
SERVING
THIS REALM.

...
WHO
ARE
YOU
?

AH,
YOUR
MAJE-
STY !
WE
WERE
ON OUR
WAY TO
GREET
YOU,
HOLY
KING.







...
SO YOU
THAT ARE
LADY FROM
...

COME
IN
...

THIS
IS MY
ROOM.
WE'RE
ALONE.



WELL, WHAT
DID YOU DO
WITH IT?
FINE WORDS
COMING
FROM
A
HEARTLESS
WOMAN!



WHAT
KIND OF
MAN
ARE
YOU
?!

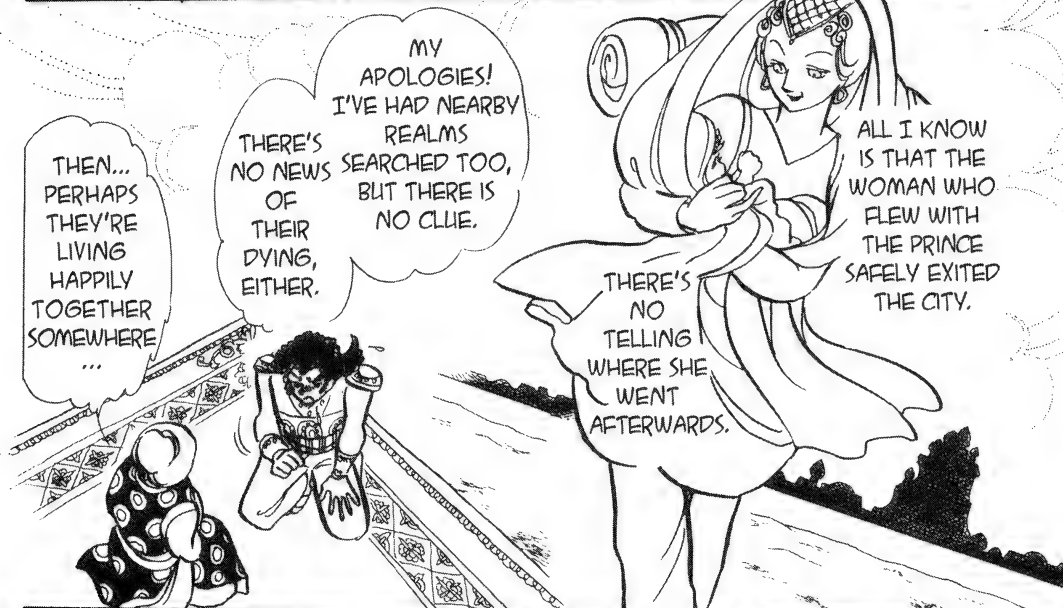
I IMPLORED
YOU TO
CARE FOR
THAT CHILD.
WHAT DID
YOU DO
WITH IT?!

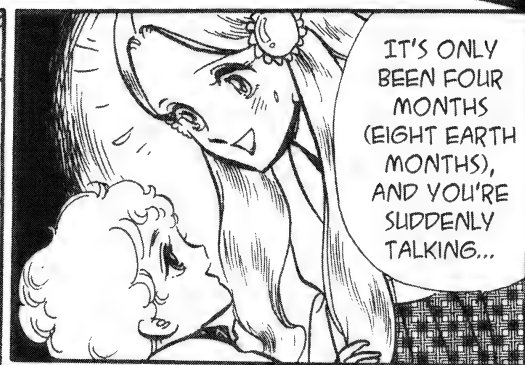
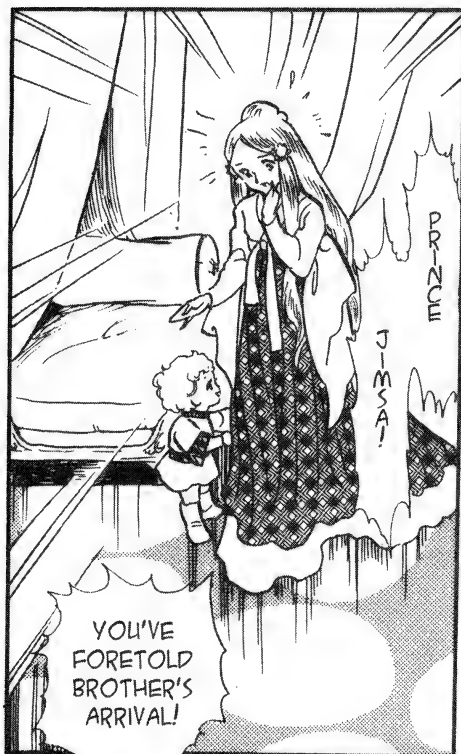
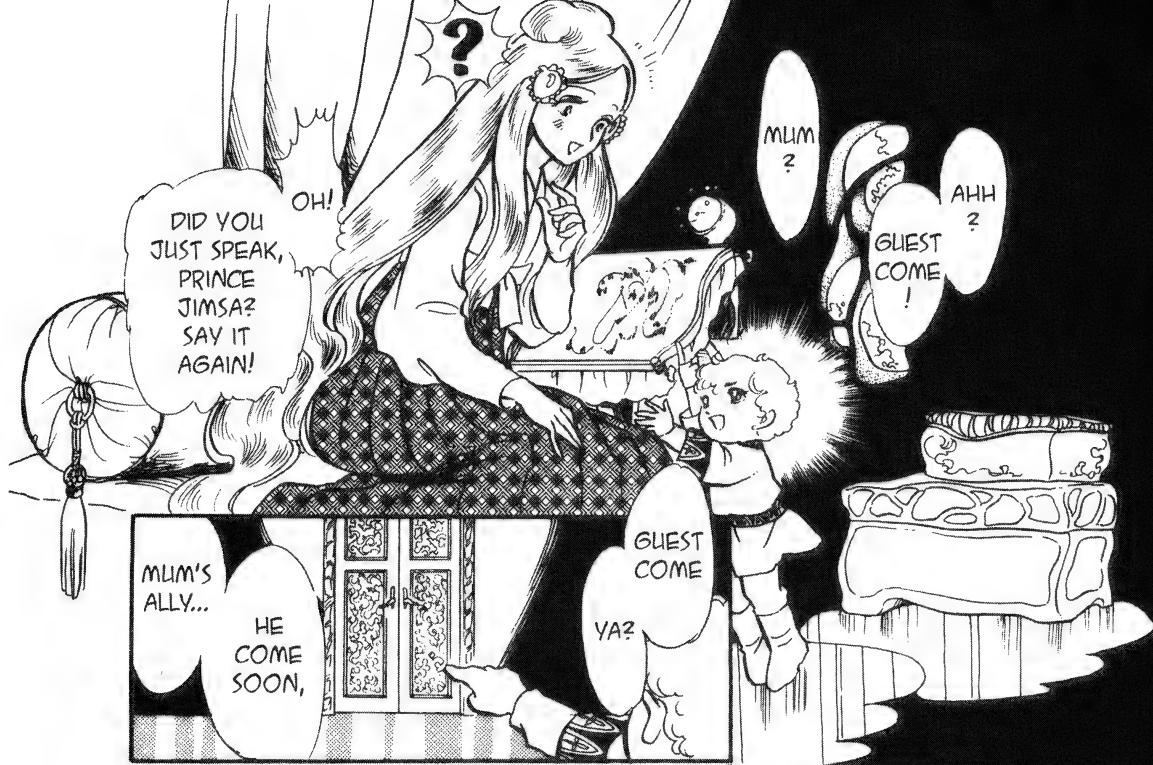


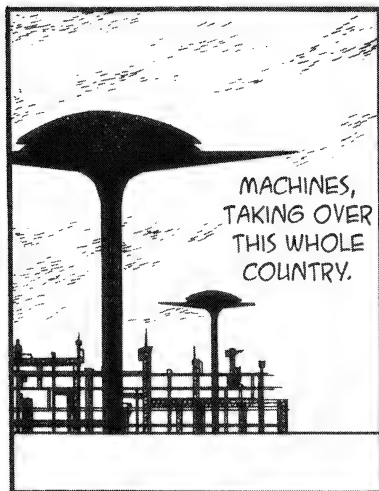
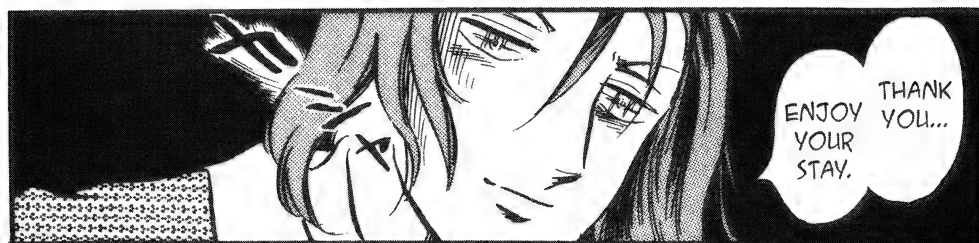
OH!

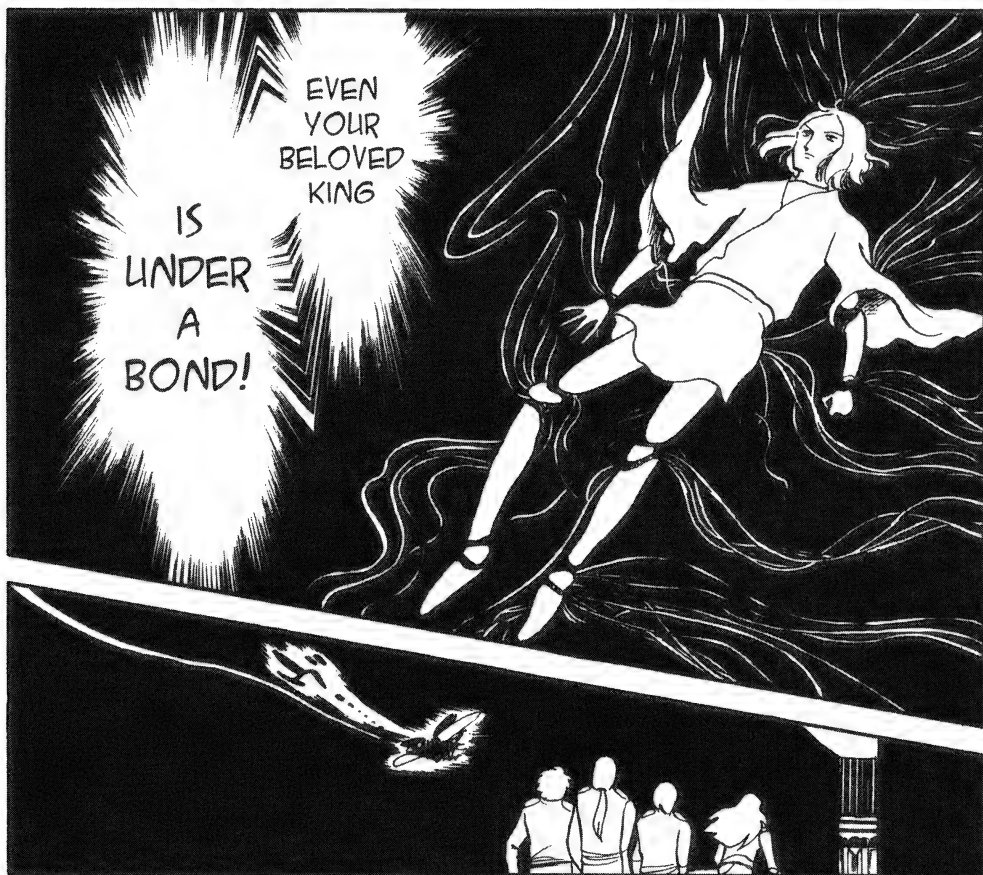
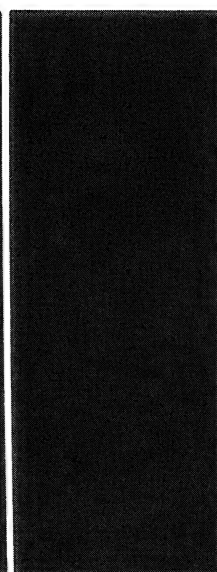
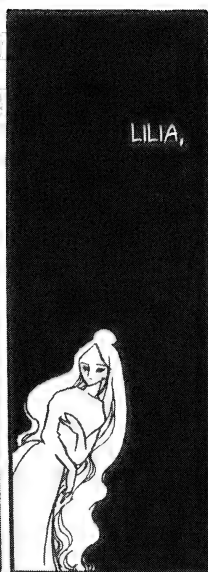
I TOOK ON
COURT
DUTY
TO TELL
THE QUEEN
MYSELF!

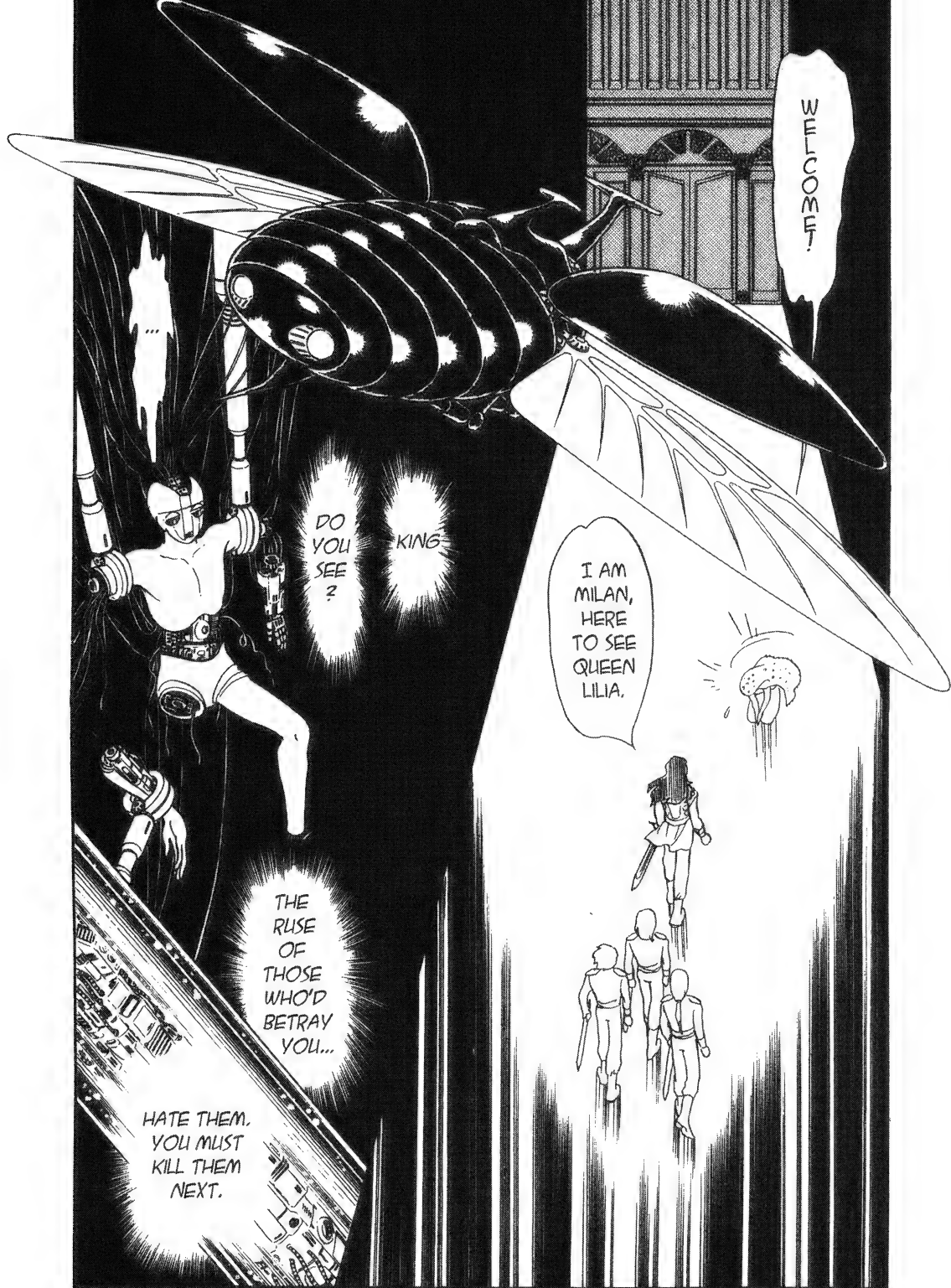
I DON'T CARE
IF THERE WAS
A REASON.
A MOTHER'S
STILL GOT TO
RAISE HER KID!!











WELCOME!

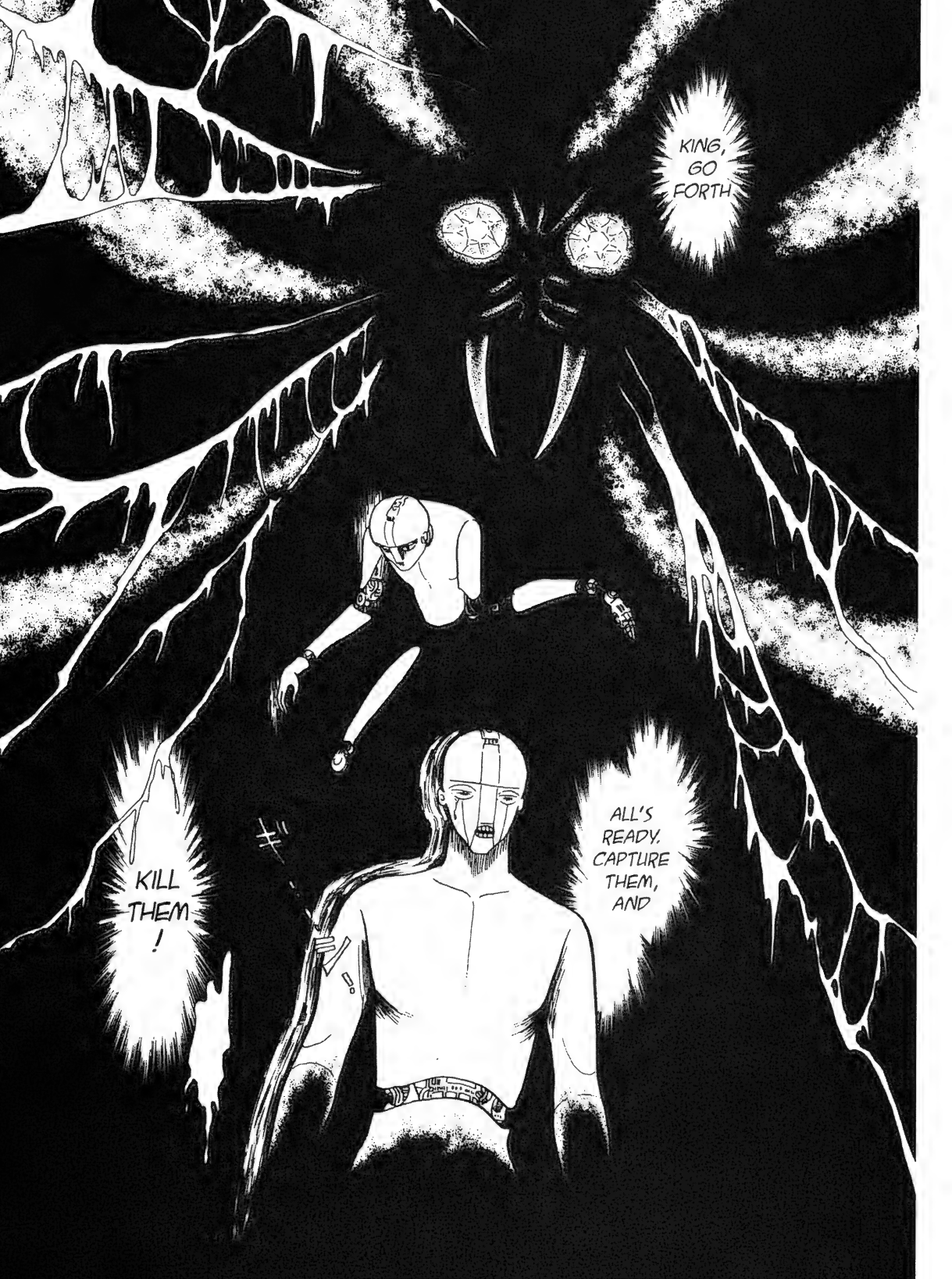
DO YOU
SEE ?

KING

I AM
MILAN,
HERE
TO SEE
QUEEN
LILIA.

THE
RUSE
OF
THOSE
WHO'D
BETRAY
YOU...

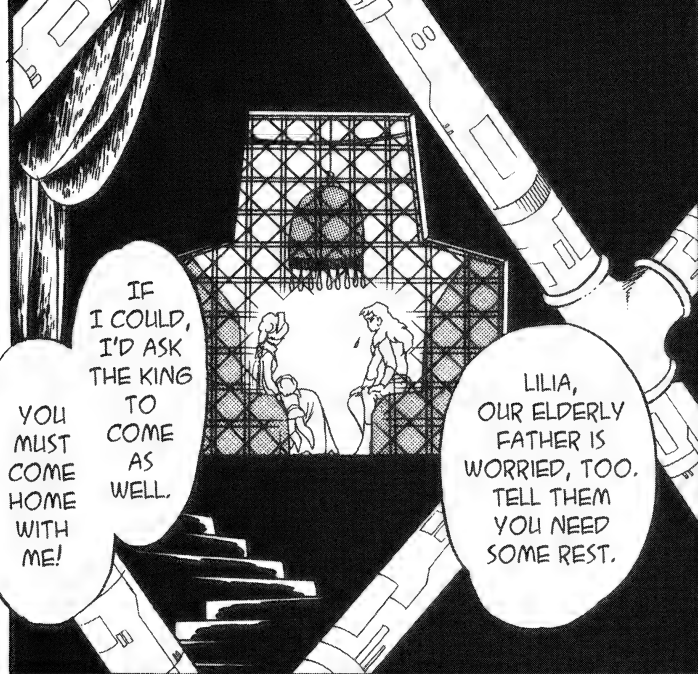
HATE THEM.
YOU MUST
KILL THEM
NEXT.



KING,
GO
FORTH

KILL
THEM
!

ALL'S
READY.
CAPTURE
THEM,
AND

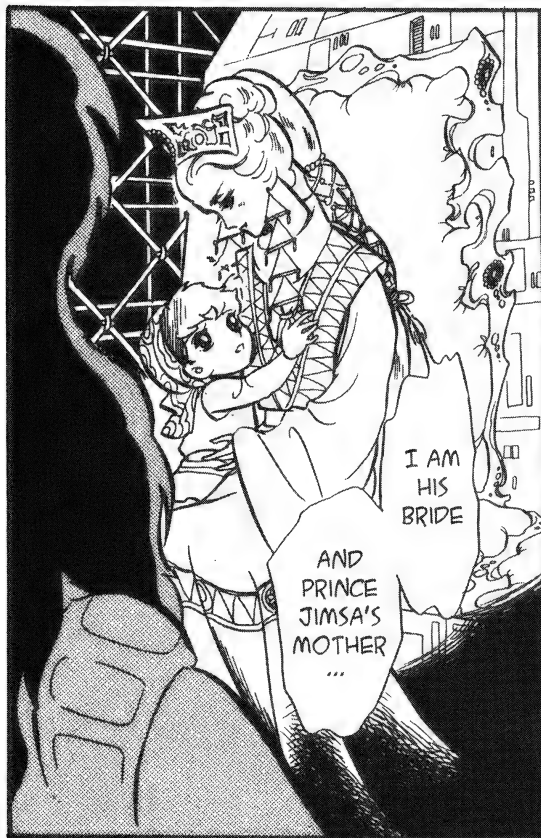


IF
I COULD,
I'D ASK
THE KING
TO
COME
AS
WELL.

YOU
MUST
COME
HOME
WITH
ME!

LILIA,
OUR ELDERLY
FATHER IS
WORRIED, TOO.
TELL THEM
YOU NEED
SOME REST.

NO,
I'M NOT
COMING!



I AM
HIS
BRIDE

AND
PRINCE
JIMSA'S
MOTHER
...

YOU
CAN'T
ASK
THAT OF
THE
PRINCESS
...

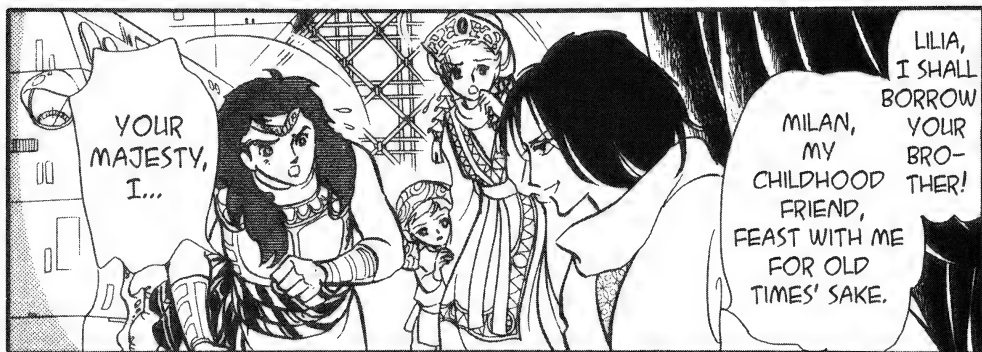
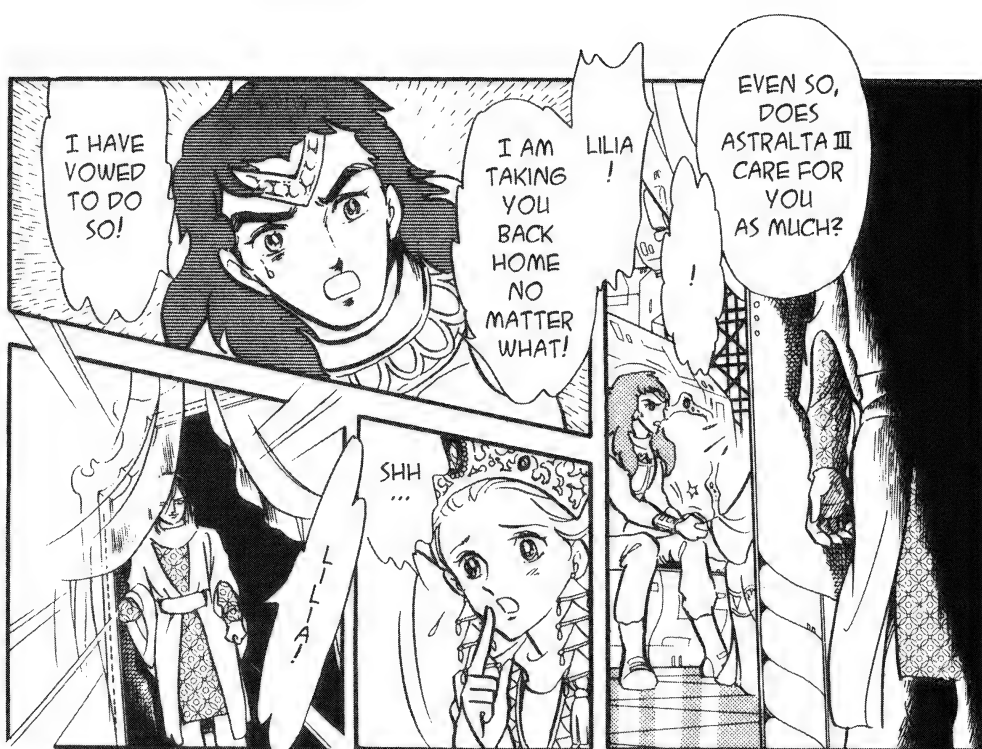
PRINCE
MILAN,
YOU'VE
JUST
ARRIVED!

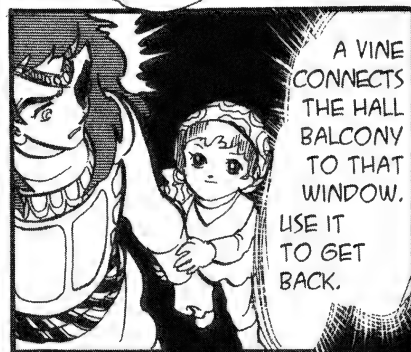
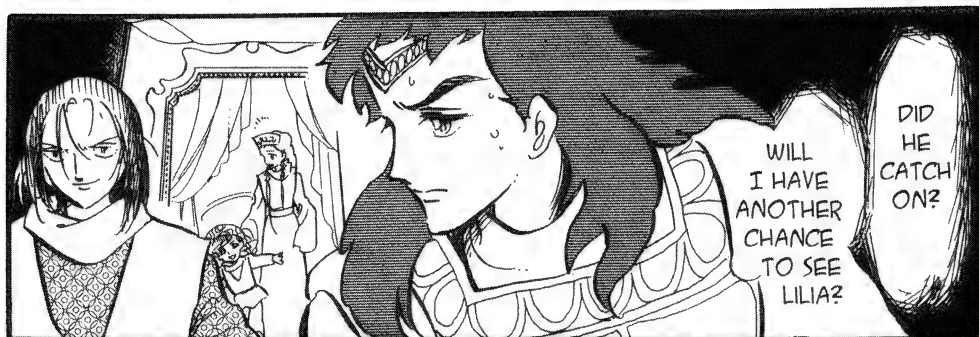
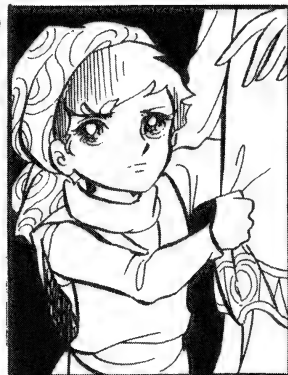
LILIA, ARE YOU
AWARE OF WHAT'S
GOING ON?
WHAT BEAUTIFUL
ARANCHAN
NOW LOOKS
LIKE?

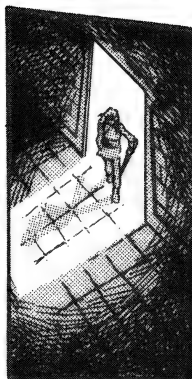


BUT IF
THERE IS
SOMETHING,
THEN I MUST
STAY BY HIS
MAJESTY'S
SIDE.

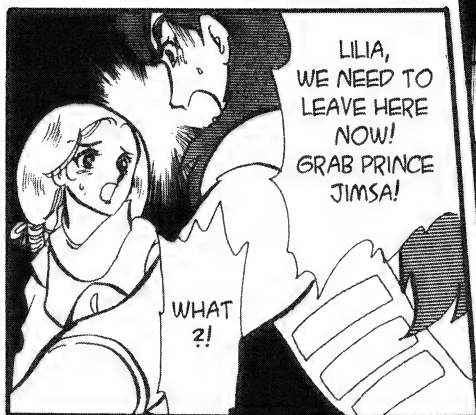
NO
!













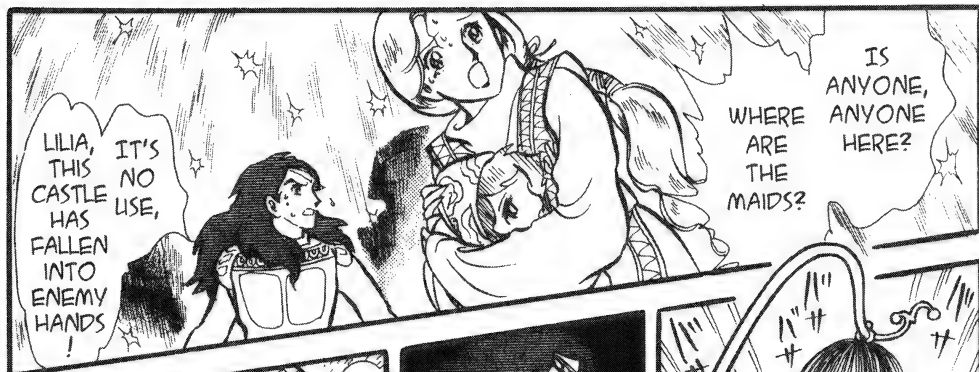
AN
INVISIBLE
WALL!



TRUE
NATURE
?!
WHAT
ARE
YOU...



AT LAST
YOU
SHOW
YOUR
TRUE
NATURE.



LILIA,
THIS
CASTLE
HAS
FALLEN
INTO
ENEMY
HANDS
!

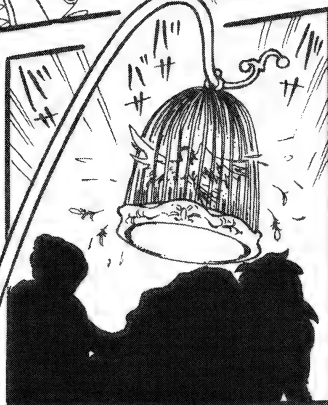
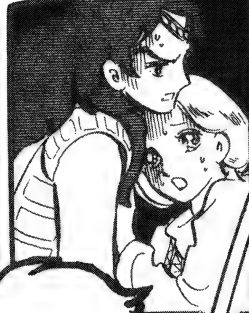
IT'S
NO
USE,

IS
ANYONE,
ANYONE
HERE?

WHERE
ARE
THE
MAIDS?

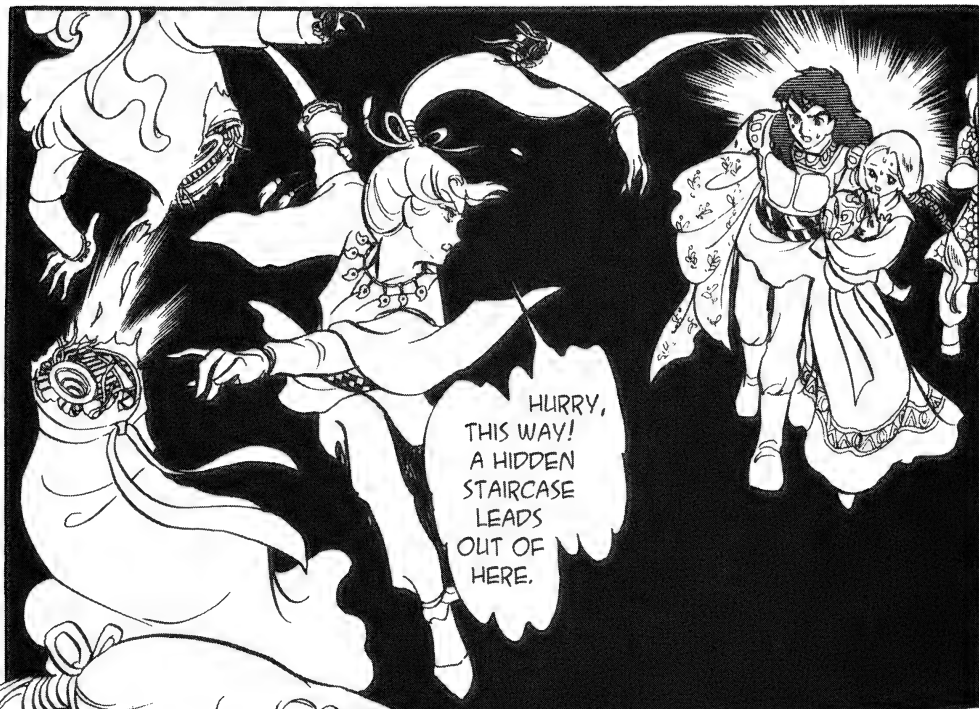
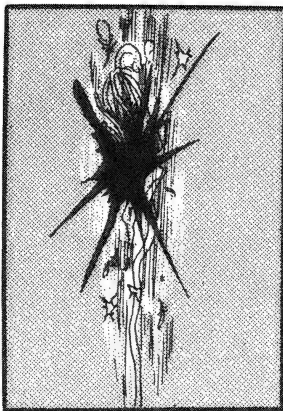


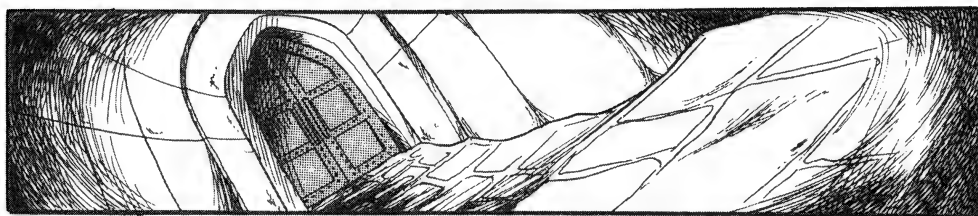
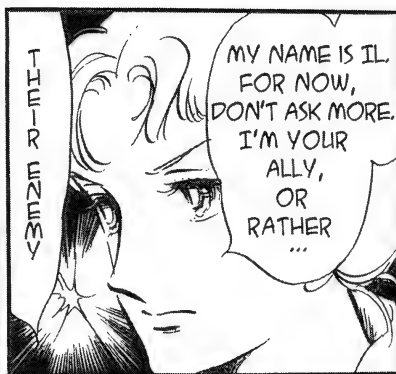
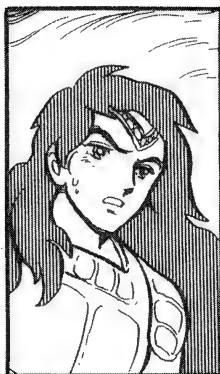
HELP
COME.

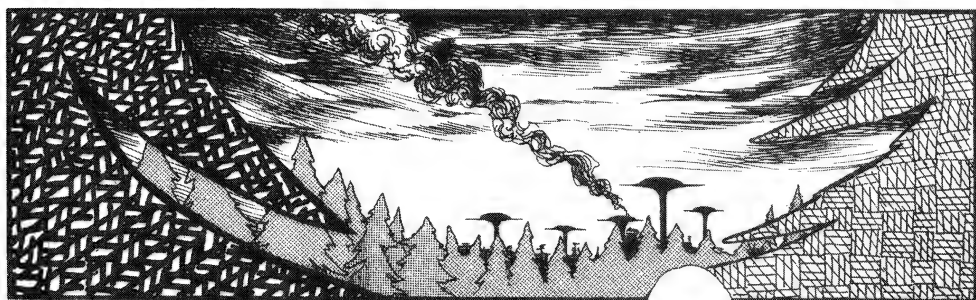


THERE'S
SOMEONE
AT THE
ENTRANCE
!

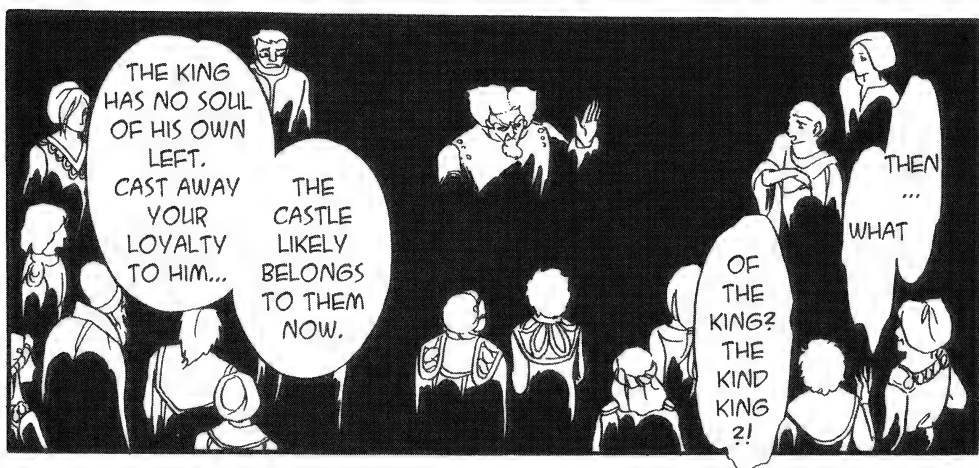
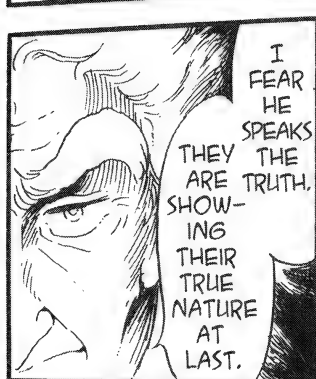


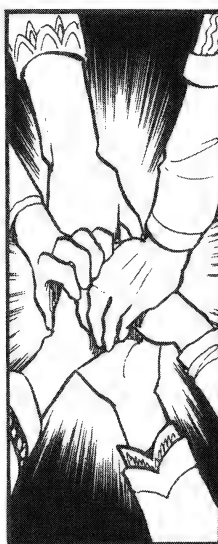
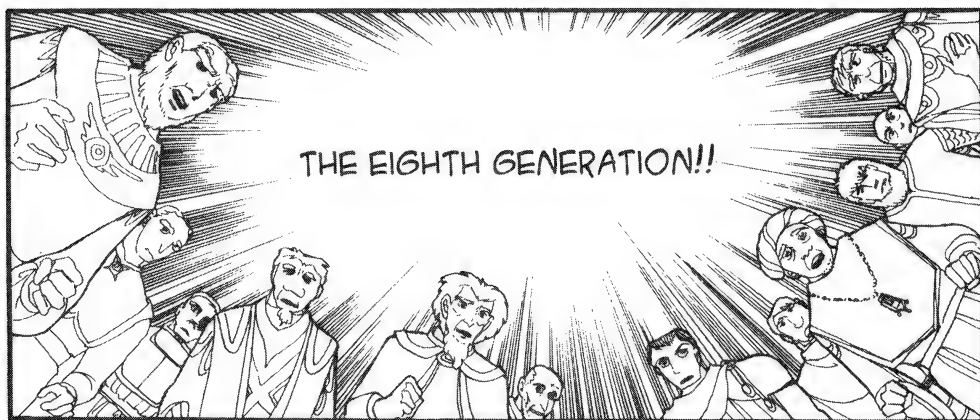
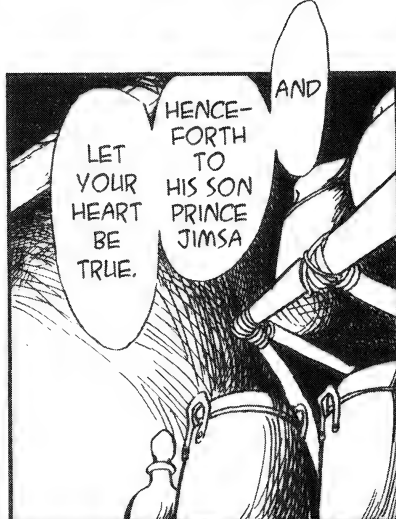
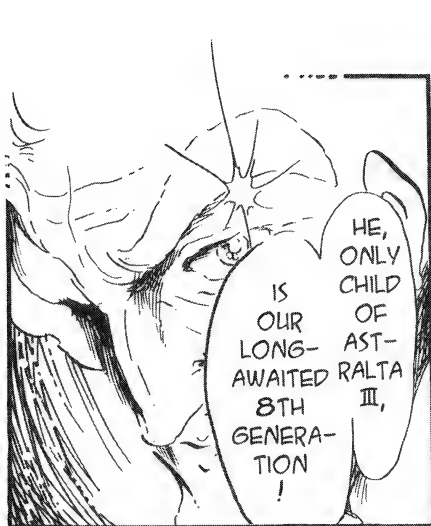


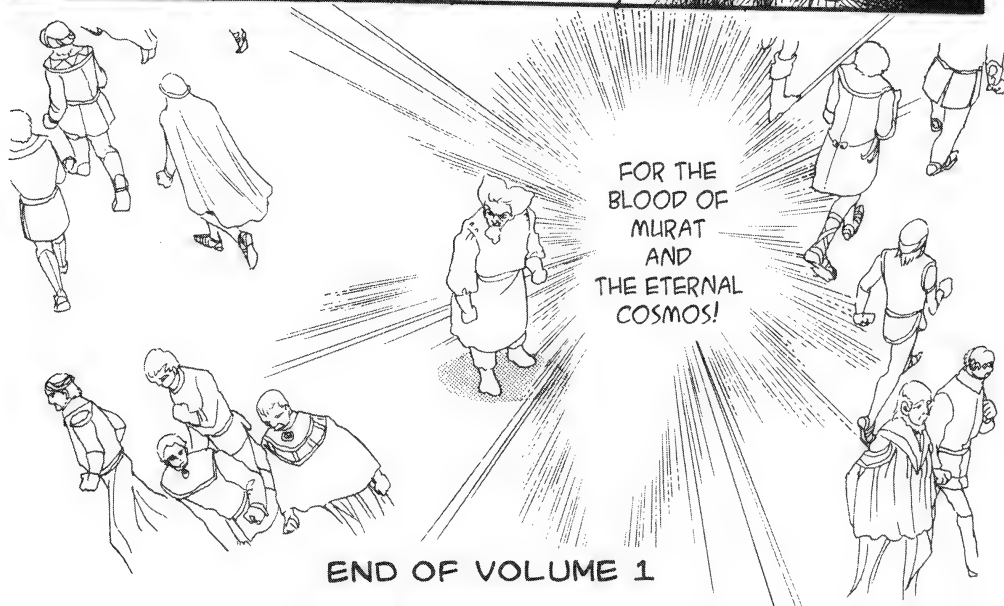












END OF VOLUME 1

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Keiko Takemiya made her debut in 1968 with “The Sin of the Apple.” She is one of a handful of women artists called the 49ers who created shojo manga as we know it today. Takemiya won the 25th Shogakkan Manga Award in 1980 for *To Terra...* and *The Poem of the Wind and the Tree*. In 2000, she became Japan’s first-ever “Professor of Manga” at Kyoto Seika University, where she continues to teach. In addition to her own comics, she has penned illustrations for various novels.

Ryu Mitsuse (1928-99) is best known for his science fiction works but also excelled as a writer of historical fiction. He received the Japan SF Award, Special Prize, posthumously. *Ten Billion Noons and a Hundred Billion Nights*, his most popular novel, formed the basis of the celebrated manga by Moto Hagio, Takemiya’s fellow 49er. Mitsuse devised an original story for his collaboration with Takemiya on *Andromeda Stories*. He was a major formative influence on Takemiya by her own account.

アンドロメダ ストーリーズ

竹宮恵子

Keiko TAKEMIYA

原作 光瀬 龍

STORIES OF ANDROMEDA GALAXY



アンドロメダストリーズ

STANDARD GAL

竹宮恵子

原光頼龍

百億——いや

五百億——二千億年の昔だろうか？

宇宙創世の以前——

それは
直径百三十億キロの
エネルギーの塊であった

光も熱も音もない
漆黒の宙に浮く

太陽系ほどの暗黒の球体

そこにはまさに
何もなかった

光がないから時さえもない

——原初の宇宙である

しかし

時のないところで 時は流れ
時間のないところで 永劫の時が過ぎて行った

そして——ある時

突然に

正ネルギの塊は物質に変わり始める

——中性子のような物質である

初め
気の遠くなるような距離にあった
個々の物質は

永劫の時の果て

やがて
漂い集まって

薄い中性子の
雲となり

万有引力で
引き寄せあつて

密度を増して行く

高密度になった物質は熱を生み

さらに
すさまじい超高密度
超高温の中で

物質は反応しあい

ついに

大爆発となる――



こうして
「空間」と「時間」が生まれた

過去から未来へ向かって
膨張する宇宙

時の流れの速さは
宇宙の膨張する速さであった

その絶対的時間のなかで

さらに

物質は互いに引きあい
水素原子へと成長し――

――太陽の出現である

水素原子の巨大な塊は
そして
核融合反応を始める

宇宙のあちこちで
太陽が生まれ燃えつき

――あるいは爆発し

その胎内で創られた物質を
まき散らす

――再び
新しい太陽が生まれ

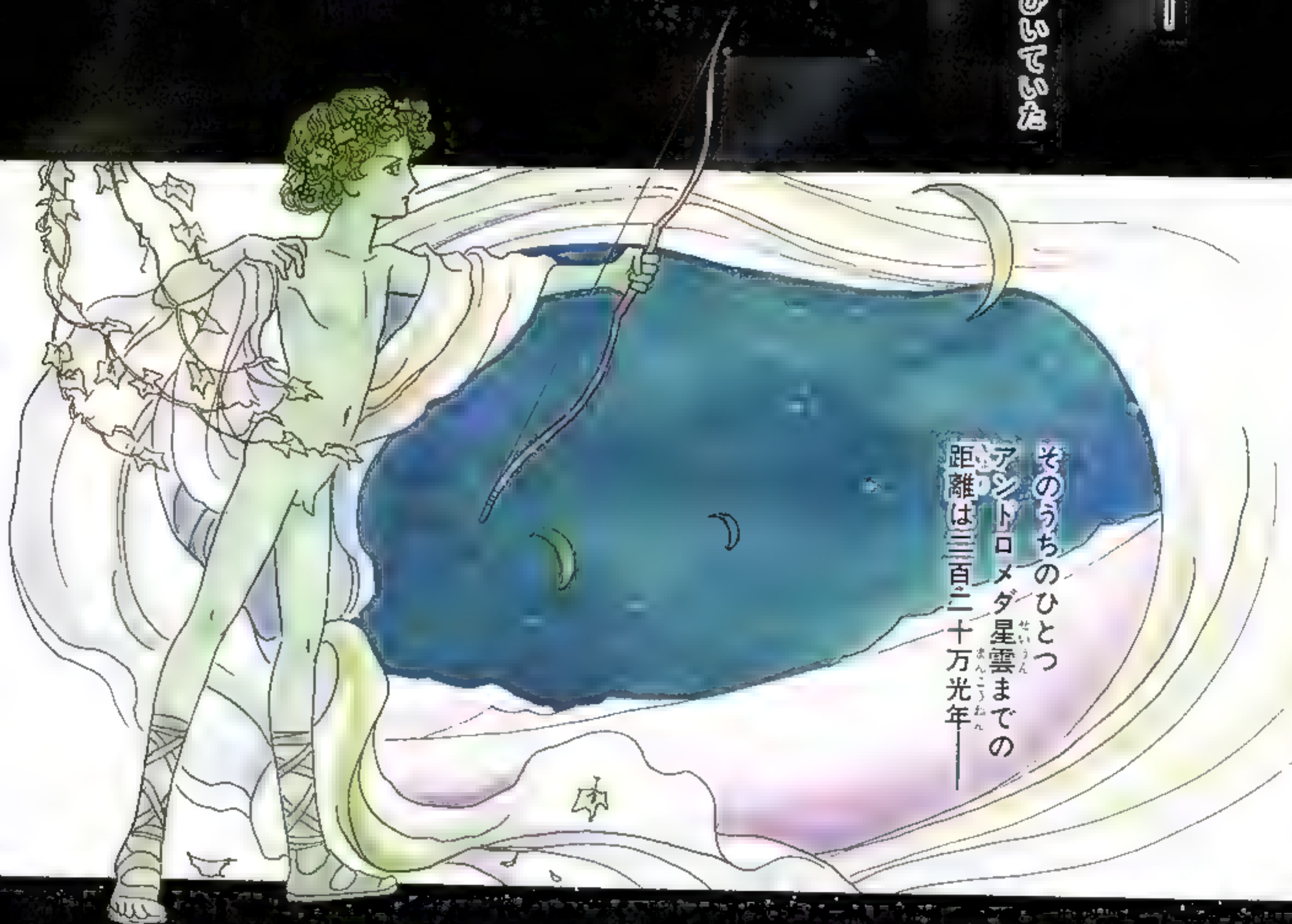
太陽になりきれない
小さな塊は惑星となつて
まわりを回る

「千億年の時の流れ」

広大な宇宙空間に
千切れ千切れにながびいていた
水素原子の雲は

こうしてそれぞれに
集まり渦まき

星雲へと成長して
行ったのである



そのうちのひとつ
「アンドロメダ星雲」までの
距離は三百二十万光年

今夜あおぎ見る
「アンドロメダ星雲」は
はるか三百二十万年前のものである

地球上では
まだ人類の確たる祖先も
現れていない

夜空に浮かぶ
かすかな光のしみのような
アンドロメダは

見るものの心に
不思議なロマンを
かきたてる――



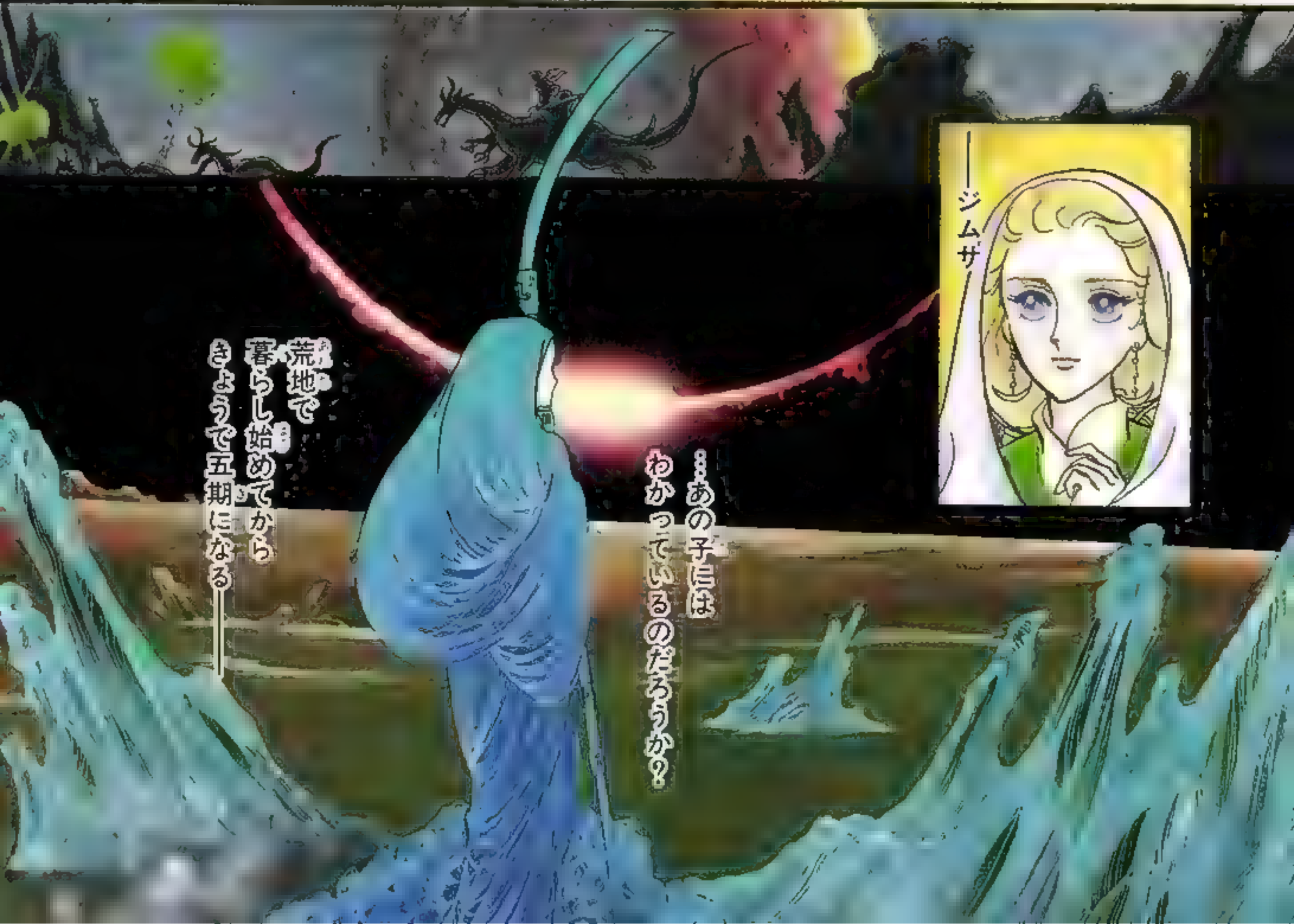
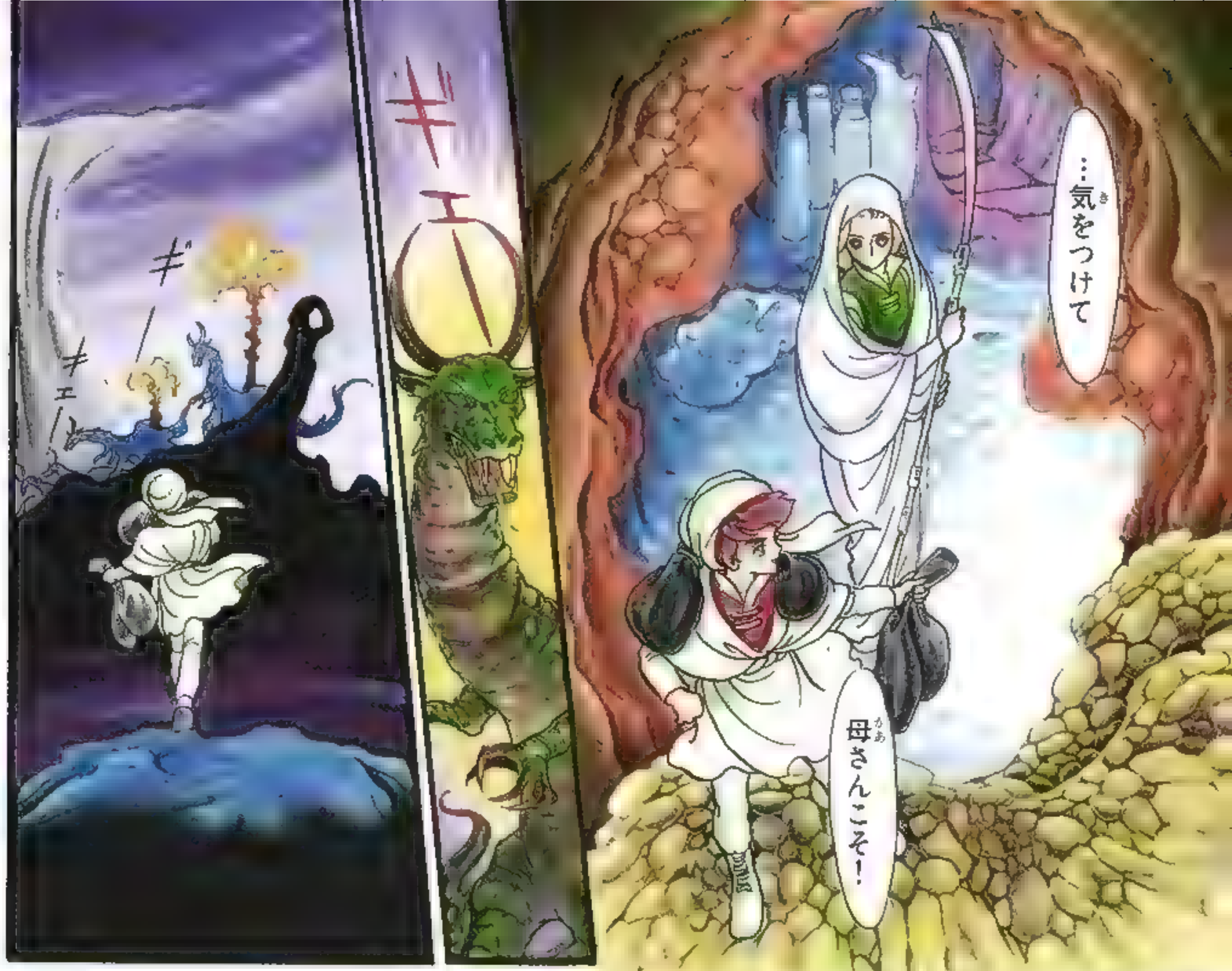
見てごらん
母さん

砂の竜が
群れて行くよ

きっと泉へ
行くんでしょう

いつしよに行つて
水をくんで
来たほうがいいな
…夜が来る





惑星アストウリアス
コスモポリア帝国

青の魚座に
白い虹のかかる月

第5日

…それから

足輪 腕輪
手首の輪…

手首のは縁起のいい
Bの数字を
使っています

まあ！

これはイタカ様からの
贈りものでしたわね
すばらしい胸飾り！





額飾りに
ふさの髪飾り

コインの飾りの
かぶりものと

…いいかげんに
しろよ
乳母タラマ!

並べて見ても
うんざりなのに

いちいち数えあげたら
それだけで肩がこる!



ましてやこの数の
装飾品を身につける
リアの身にも
なってみろ

頸が折れるわ!

これを何だと
お心得です

花嫁というものは
最も魔に侵され
やすいものですよ!
魔よけもなしに
姫さまを送り出せと
いうのですかつ

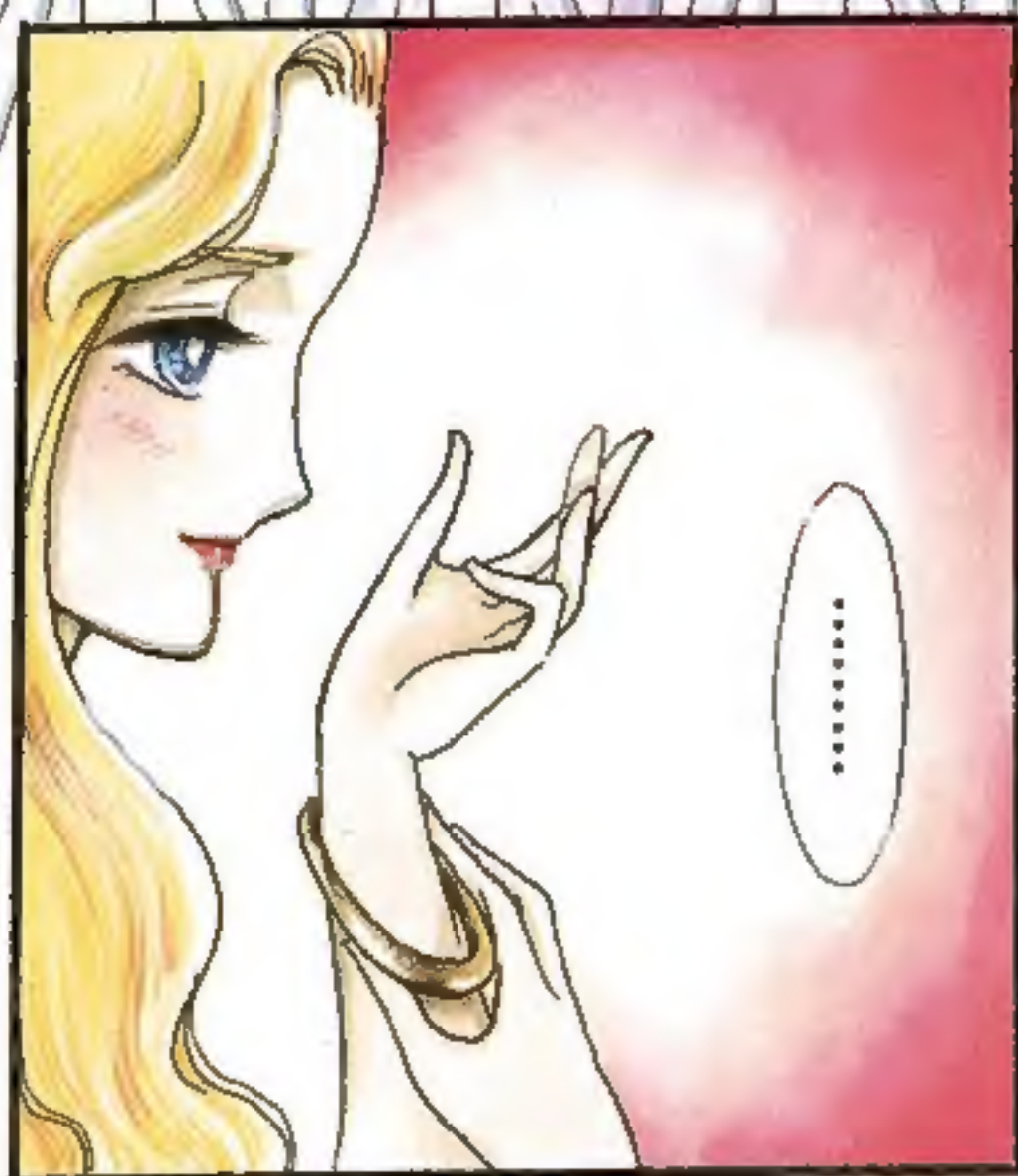
んまあ——まあ
何という
ば・あ・た・り・な!

フン そんな儀式は
故国のアヨドーヤで
もうしただろう！

いくら魔よけや
お守りをつけたって

魔王に
ほれられりや
それまでさ

……リリアは
それくらいよい
値うちの女の子だ



……兄さまったら……

また何を怒って
らっしゃるの？

……まったく！
つきそいに来て
おきながら

何という態度
でしょう

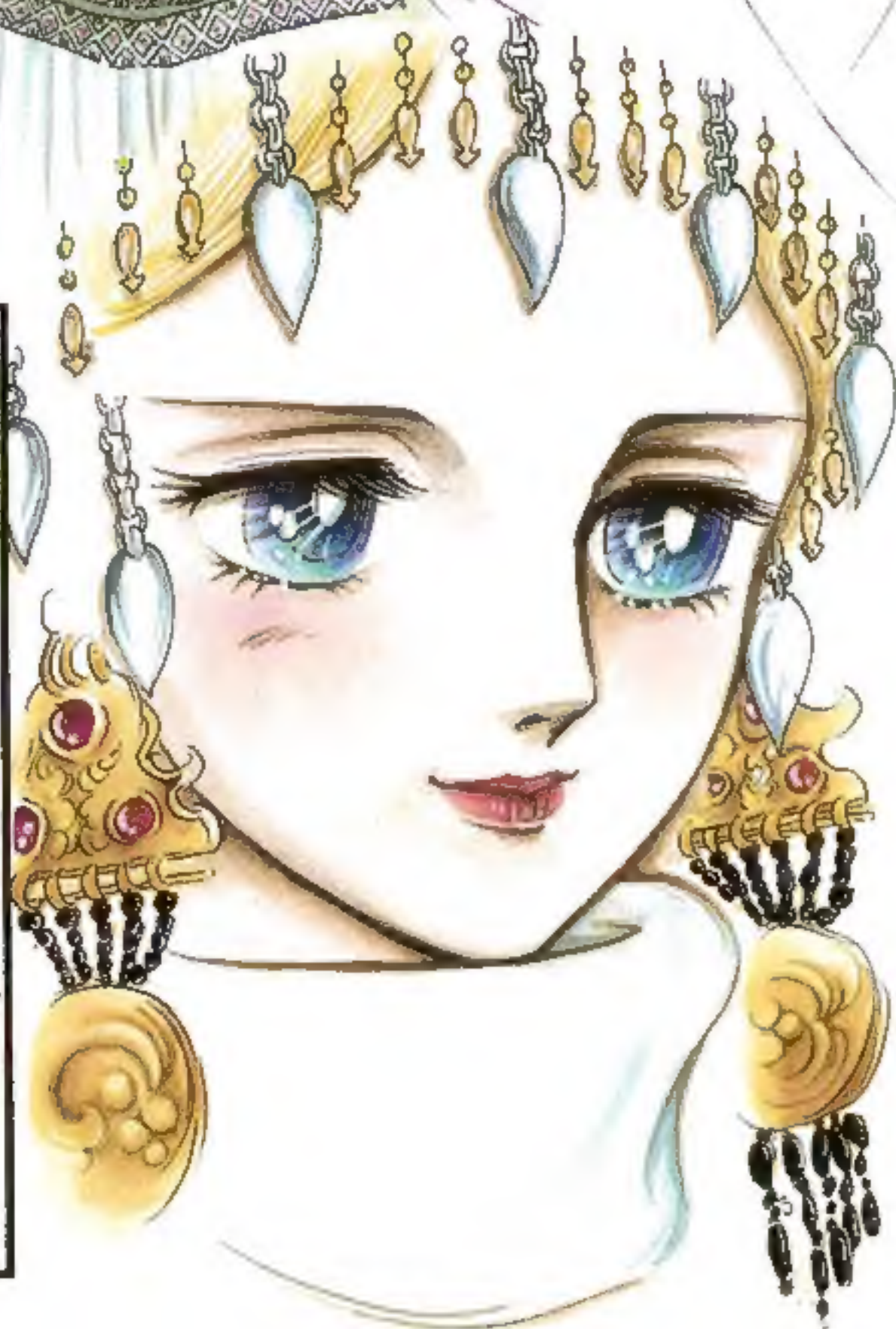
ほうっっておおきあそばせ
あの方は姫さまのお奥入れに
いささか不満なのですから

……不謹慎な……
妹君の結婚を
妬くなんて！！



さあ……
ごらんなさいませ
ミラン王子さま

並ぶものなき
アヨドーヤの美姫の
一世一代の晴れ姿ですよ！



ANDROMEDA IS WHERE THE MIND THROBS.

Cosmoralia's Prince Ithaca is about to wed Princess Lilia of Ayodoya and be crowned Astralta III. The apparently favorable celestial bearings mean he will be no mere monarch but holy king of a new "papacy." Alas, the peaceful inhabitants of Planet Astria have no clue that they're next in line for invasion by a ruthless machine force—a threat that seems to metaphorize the inherent perils of politics and desire in this multilayered saga. The tension slowly mounts to an unbearable pitch in this ominous first volume of three.

Following the conclusion of her award-winning and epochal *To Terra...*, Keiko Takemiya paired up with science fiction legend Ryu Mitsuse to create yet another milestone that was shortly made into an animated TV feature. *Andromeda Stories* is comics pioneer Takemiya's second work to appear in English.



Prince Ithaca
Cosmoralia is eager to see the gentle and intelligent heir ascend to the throne.



Princess Lilia
Ithaca's bride from the Kingdom of Ayodoya, where her weaving was much admired.



Balga
The top gladiator of Cosmoralia is a simple man who gets drunk rather too often.



Prince Milan
Lilia's brother and Ithaca's childhood friend, he ably assists his father the king.

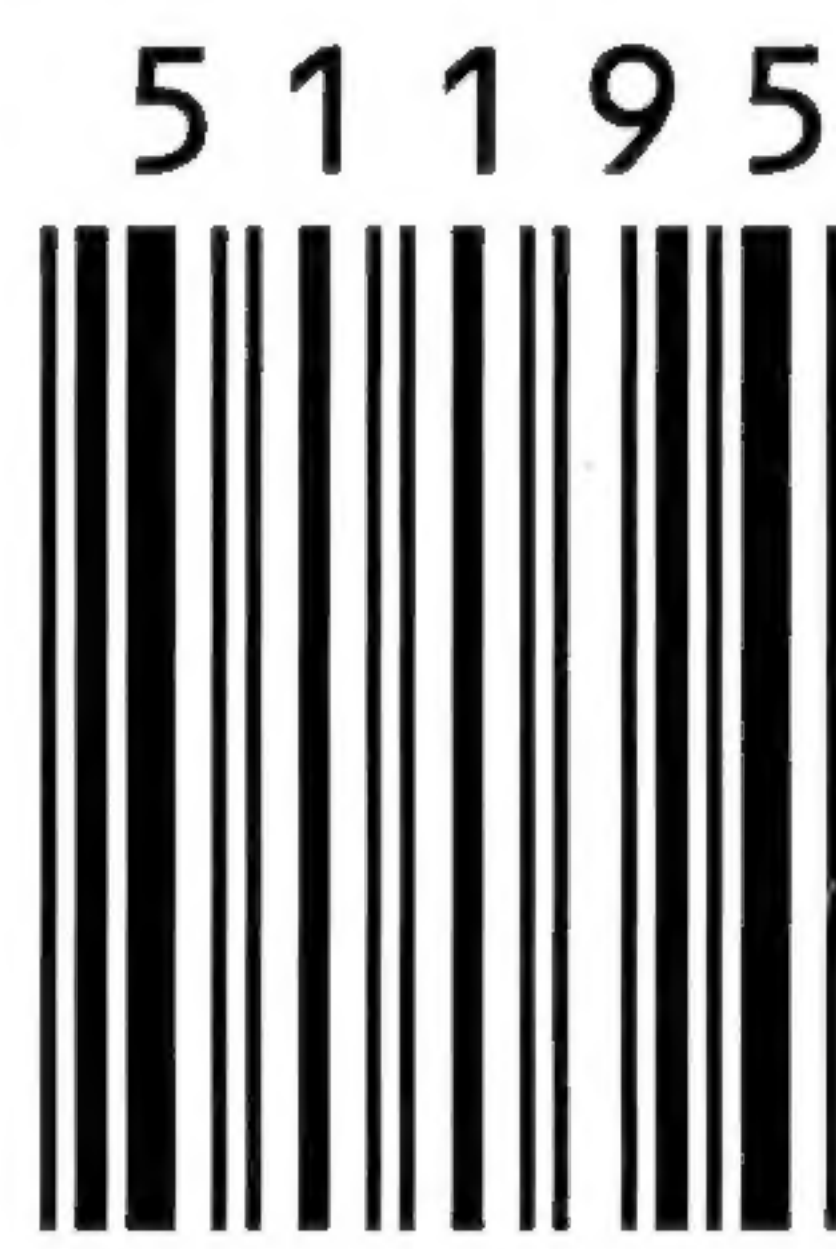
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